

JOURNAL

OF THE

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

CONGRESS.

JOURNAL

OF THE

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

CONGRESS,

HELD AT

PHILADELPHIA,

MAY 10, 1775.



PHILADELPHIA:

Printed and Sold, by WILLIAM and THOMAS BRADFORD, at the *London Coffee-House.*

M.DCC.LXXV.

A LIST

OF THE

DELEGATES

Who attended the CONGRESS, held at

Philadelphia, May 10, 1775.

NEW-HAMPSHIRE.

HON. JOHN SULLIVAN, Esq;
JOHN LANGDON, Esq;

MASSACHUSETT'S-BAY.

Hon. JOHN HANCOCK, Esq;
Hon. THOMAS CUSHING, Esq;
Mr. SAMUEL ADAMS.
JOHN ADAMS, Esq;
ROBERT TREAT PAINE, Esq;

RHODE

RHODE-ISLAND.

Hon. Stephen Hopkins, Eſq;
Hon. Samuel Ward, Eſq;

CONNECTICUT.

Hon. Eliphalet Dyer, Eſq;
Hon. Roger Sherman, Eſq;
Silas Deane, Eſq;

NEW-YORK.

Philip Livingston, Eſq;
James Duane, Eſq;
John Aslop, Eſq;
John Jay, Eſq;
Simon Boerum, Eſq;
William Floyd, Eſq;
Henry Wisner, Eſq;
Philip Schuyler, Eſq;
George Clinton, Eſq;
Lewis Morris, Eſq;
Francis Lewis, Eſq;
Robert R. Livingstgn, Eſq;

NEW-JERSEY.

James Kinsey, Eſq;
Stephen Crane, Eſq;

William

WILLIAM LIVINGSTON, Esq;
JOHN D'HART, Esq;
RICHARD SMITH, Esq;

PENNSYLVANIA.

JOHN DICKINSON, Esq;
THOMAS MIFFLIN, Esq;
CHARLES HUMPHREYS, Esq;
JOHN MORTON, Esq;
GEORGE ROSS, Esq;
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, Esq;
THOMAS WILLING, Esq;
JAMES WILSON, Esq:

LOWER COUNTIES on DELAWARE.

Hon. CESAR RODNEY, Esq;
THOMAS M'KEANE, Esq;
GEORGE READ, Esq;

MARYLAND.

Hon MATTHEW TILGHMAN, Esq;
THOMAS JOHNSON, jun. Esq;
ROBERT GOLDSBOROUGH, jun. Esq;
WILLIAM PACA, Esq;
SAMUEL CHASE, Esq;
JOHN HALL, Esq;
THOMAS STONE, Esq;

VIRGINIA

VIRGINIA.

Hon. PEYTON RANDOLPH, Eſq;
GEORGE WASHINGTON, Eſq;
PATRICK HENRY, Eſq;
RICHARD HENRY LEE, Eſq;
EDMUND PENDLETON, Eſq;
BENJAMIN HARRISON, Eſq;
RICHARD BLAND, Eſq;
THOMAS JEFFERSON, Eſq;

NORTH-CAROLINA.

WILLIAM HOOPER, Eſq;
JOSEPH HEWES, Eſq;
RICHARD CASWELL, Eſq;

SOUTH-CAROLINA.

Hon. HENRY MIDDLETON, Eſq;
THOMAS LYNCH, Eſq;
CHRISTOPHER GADSDEN, Eſq;
JOHN RUTLEDGE, Eſq;
EDWARD RUTLEDGE, Eſq;

Pariſh of ST. JOHN'S, in GEORGIA.

LYMAN HALL, Eſq;

JOURNAL, &c.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 1775.

A NUMBER of Delegates from the Colonies of *New-Hampſhire*, *Maſſachuſetts-Bay*. *Connecticut*, *New-York*, *New-Jerſey*, *Pennſylvania*, *Delaware Counties*, *Maryland*, *Virginia*, *North-Carolina* and *South Carolina*, agreeable to their appointment and orders, received from their reſpective Colonies, met at *Philadelphia*, and being convened in the State-Houſe, proceeded to the choice of a Preſident, when

Upon Motion, The Hon. PEYTON RANDOLPH was unanimouſly choſen Preſident.

After the Preſident was ſeated,

Mr. CHARLES THOMSON was unanimouſly choſen Secretary.

Andrew M'Neare was alſo choſen Doorkeeper, and William Shed Meſſenger.

A *Agreed*,

Agreed, THAT the Rev. Mr. Duché be requeſted to open the Congreſs with Prayers tomorrow morning; and that Mr. Willing, Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Bland, be a Committee to wait on Mr. Duché, and acquaint him with the requeſt of the Congreſs.

Adjourned till to-morrow at 11 o'clock.

THURSDAY, *May* 11, 1775. A. M.

AGREEABLE to the order of yeſterday, the Congreſs was opened with Prayers, by the Rev. Mr. Duché. After Prayers the Congreſs according to adjournment proceeded to buſineſs.

THE Delegates from the ſeveral Colonies produced their reſpective credentials, which were read and approved, as follows.

NEW-HAMPSHIRE. At the Convention of Deputies, appointed by the ſeveral towns in the province aforeſaid, held at Exeter, on the 25th day of January, 1775,

The Hon. John Wentworth, Eſq; in the Chair.

Voted, That JOHN SULLIVAN and JOHN LANGDON, Eſqrs; be delegated to repreſent this province in the Continental Congreſs, propoſed to be held at Philadelphia, on the tenth day of May next, and that they and each of them, in the abſence of the other, have full and ample power, in behalf of this province, to conſent and

and agree to all meaſures, which ſaid Congreſs ſhall deem neceſſary, to obtain redreſs of American grievances.

True copy atteſted,

MASHECK WEARE, *Clerk to the Convention.*

Province of the MASSACHUSETTS-BAY, *in provincial Congreſs*, CAMBRIDGE, *Dec.* 5, 1774.

Reſolved, That the proceedings of the American Continental Congreſs, held at Philadelphia, on the 5th day of September laſt, and reported by the honourable Delegates from this Colony, have, with the deliberation due to their high importance, been conſidered by us, and the American Bill of Rights therein contained, appears to be formed with the greateſt ability and judgment; to be founded on the immutable laws of nature and reaſon, the principles of the Engliſh conſtitution, and reſpective charters and conſtitutions of the Colonies, and to be worthy of their moſt vigorous ſupport, as eſſentially neceſſary to liberty; likewiſe the ruinous and iniquitous meaſures, which in violation of theſe rights, at preſent convulſe and threaten deſtruction to America, appear to be clearly pointed out, and judicious plans adopted for defeating them.

Reſolved, THAT the moſt grateful acknowledgements are due to the truly honorable and patriotic Members of the Continental Congreſs, for their wiſe and able exertions in the cauſe of American Liberty; and this Congreſs in their

own names, and in behalf of this Colony, do hereby, with the utmoſt ſincerity, expreſs the ſame.

Reſolved, THAT the Hon. JOHN HANCOCK, Hon. THOMAS CUSHING, Eſqs. Mr. SAMUEL ADAMS, JOHN ADAMS, and ROBERT TREAT PAIN, Eſqrs. or any three of them be, and they are hereby appointed and authoriſed to repreſent this Colony, on the tenth of May next, or ſooner if neceſſary, at the American Congreſs, to be held at Philadelphia, with full power, with the Delegates from the other American Colonies, to concert, agree upon, direct and order ſuch further meaſures, as ſhall to them appear to be beſt calculated for the recovery and eſtabliſhment of American rights and liberties, and for reſtoring harmony between Great-Britain and the Colonies.

A true copy of Record,

BENJAMIN LINCOLN, *Secretary*.

In Provincial Congreſs, CAMBRIDGE, *February* 6, 1775.

Reſolved, THAT the Hon. JOHN HANCOCK, Hon THOMAS CUSHING, Eſqrs. Mr. SAMUEL ADAMS, JOHN ADAMS, and ROBERT TREAT PAIN, Eſqrs. appointed by the laſt Provincial Congreſs to repreſent this Colony, on the tenth of May next, or ſooner if neceſſary, at the American Congreſs, to be held at Philadelphia be, and they are hereby authoriſed and impowered, with

with the Delegates from the other American Colonies, to adjourn from time to time, and [illegible] as shall be judged neceſſary, and to continue in being as Delegates, for this Colony, until the thirty firſt day of December next, and no longer.

A true copy of Record,

BENJAMIN LINCOLN, *Secretary.*

In the Houſe of Repreſentatives of the Colony of [illegible], November 3, A. D. 1774.

This Houſe proceeded to nominate, chuſe and appoint Delegates, to attend the General Congreſs to be holden at Philadelphia on the tenth day of May next, and made choice of the hon. [illegible] DYER, hon. ROGER SHERMAN, SILAS DEANE, * ITUS HOSMER, and * JONATHAN STURGESS, Eſquires, to be their Delegates, any three of whom are authorized and empowered to attend ſaid Congreſs, in behalf of this colony, to join, conſult and adviſe with the Delegates of the other Colonies in British America, on proper meaſures for advancing the beſt good of the Colonies.

WILLIAM WILLIAMS, *Speaker.*

A true copy, extracted from the journals of the Houſe,

Atteſted, RICHARD LAW, *Clerk.*

AT

AT a provincial Convention formed of Deputies from the city and county of NEW-YORK, the city and county of Albany, and the counties of Dutchess, Ulster, Orange, West-Chester, King's and Suffolk, held at the City of New-York, the 22d day of April, 1775 for the purpose of appointing Delegates to represent the colony of New York, in the next Continental Congress, to be held at Philadelphia on the tenth of May next, PHILIP LIVINGSTON, JAMES DUANE, JOHN ALSOP, * JOHN JAY, SIMON BOERUM, WILLIAM FLOYD, * HENRY WISNER, * PHILIP SCHUYLER, * GEORGE CLINTON, LEWIS MORRIS, * FRANCIS LEWIS, and * ROBERT R. LIVINGSTON, jun. Esquires, were unanimously elected Delegates, to represent this Colony at such Congress, with full power to them or any five of them, to meet the Delegates from the other Colonies, and to concert and determine upon such measures as shall be judged most effectual for the preservation and re establishment of American rights and priviledges, and for the restoration of harmony between Great-Britain and the Colonies.

Signed, *Leonard Lispenard*, *Isaac Roosevelt*, *Abraham Walton*, *Alexander McDougall*, and twenty-four others.

WE the subscribers do in behalf of ourselves and those freeholders of Queen's county, at whose request we attended the Convention, signify our assent to, and approbation of the above Delegation.

Signed, *John Fulman*, *Zebulon Williams*, *Jacob Blackwell*, *Joseph Robinson*.

NEW-

NEW-JERSEY. *In Assembly*, PERTH-AMBOY, *Tuesday, January* 24, 1775.

Resolved Unanimously, That JAMES KINSEY, STEPHEN CRANE, WILLIAM LIVINGSTON, JOHN DE HART, and RICHARD SMITH, Esqrs. or any three of them, be, and they are hereby appointed to attend the Continental Congress of the Colonies, intended to be held at the city of Philadelphia, in May next, or at any other time and place; and that they report their proceedings to the next session of General Assembly.

A true copy from the Journals,

RICHARD SMITH, *Clerk of the Assembly.*

PENNSYLVANIA. *In Assembly*, *December* 15, 1774, *A. M.*

UPON Motion, *Resolved*, *N C. D.* That the honorable EDWARD BIDDLE, JOHN DICKINSON, THOMAS MIFFLIN, CHARLES HUMPHREYS, JOHN MORTON, and GEORGE ROSS, Esquires, be, and they are hereby appointed Deputies on the part of this province, to attend the general Congress, proposed to be held at the city of Philadelphia on the tenth day of May next, and that they or any four of them do meet the said Congress accordingly, unless the present grievances of the American Colonies shall before that time be redressed.

Extract from the journals,

CHARLES MOORE, *Clerk of the Assembly.*

In

In Assembly, May 6, 1775, *A. M.*

Resolved, N. C. D. That BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, honorable THOMAS WILLING, and JAMES WILSON, Esquires be, and they are hereby added to the Deputies appointed by this House, to attend the Continental Congress, expected to meet the tenth instant in this city.

Extract from the journals,

CHARLES MOORE, *Clerk of the Assembly.*

LOWER COUNTIES *on* DELAWARE. *In Assembly, Thursday, March* 16, 1775, *A. M.*

ON motion, *Resolved, N. C. D.* That the honorable CÆSAR RODNEY, THOMAS M'KEAN, and GEORGE READ, Esquires, be, and they are hereby appointed and authorized to represent this government at the American Congress, proposed to be held at the city of Philadelphia on the tenth day of May next, or at any other time or place, with full power to them or any two of them, together with the Delegates from the other American Colonies, to concert and agree upon such further measures as shall appear to them best calculated for the accommodation of the unhappy differences between Great-Britain and the Colonies on a constitutional foundation, which the House most ardently wish for, and that they report their proceedings to the next sessions of general Assembly.

True copy of the minutes of Assembly,

DAVID THOMPSON, *Clk. to the Assembly.*

MARYLAND.

MARYLAND. At a meeting of the Deputies appointed by the ſeveral counties of the province of Maryland, at the city of Annapolis, by adjournment on the 8th December, 1774, and continued till the 12th day of the ſame month,

Reſolved unanimouſly, THAT the hon. MATTHEW TILGHMAN, THOMAS JOHNSON, junior, * ROBERT GOLDSBOROUGH, WILLIAM PACA, SAMUEL CHASE, JOHN HALL, and * THOMAS STONE, Eſquires, or any three or more of them be Delegates to repreſent this province in the next continental Congreſs, and that they or any three, or more of them, have full and ample power to conſent and agree to all meaſures, which ſuch Congreſs ſhall deem neceſſary and effectual to obtain a redreſs of American grievances; and this province bind themſelves to execute to the utmoſt of their power all Reſolutions which the ſaid Congreſs may adopt. And further, if the ſaid Congreſs ſhall think neceſſary to adjourn, we do authorize our ſaid Delegates to repreſent and act for this province in any one Congreſs, to be held by virtue of ſuch adjournment.

Signed by Order,

JOHN DUCKET, *Clerk*.

VIRGINIA. At a Convention of Delegates for the counties and corporations in the colony of Virginia, at the town of Richmond, in the county of Henrico, on Monday, the 20th of March, 1775.

THE Convention proceeded to the election of Delegates by ballot, to repreſent this Colony in general Congreſs, to be held at the city of Philadelphia on the tenth day of May next, when the honorable PEYTON RANDOLPH, GEORGE WASHINGTON, PATRICK HENRY, RICHARD HENRY LEE, EDMUND PENDLETON, BENJAMIN HARRISON, and RICHARD BLAND, Eſqrs. were choſen for that purpoſe.

PEYTON RANDOLPH, *Preſident.*
JOHN TAZEWELL, *Clerk of the Convention.*

NORTH-CAROLINA. AT a general meeting of Delegates of the inhabitants of this province in Convention, at Newbern, the 5th day of April, 1775.

PRESENT, the Hon. JOHN HARVEY, Eſq; Moderator, and 68 members.

ON motion, *Reſolved*, That WILLIAM HOOPER, JOSEPH HEWES, and RICHARD CASWELL, Eſquires, be, and are hereby appointed Delegates to attend the General Congreſs, to be held at Philadelphia on the tenth day of May next, or at any other time and place, that ſhall be appointed for that purpoſe, and they are hereby inveſted with ſuch powers as may make any acts done by them, or any of them, or conſent given in behalf of this province, obligatory, in honor, upon every inhabitant thereof.

A true copy from the Minutes,
JOHN HARVEY, *Moderator.*
Atteſted by ANDREW KNOX, *Clerk.*

In

In the Aſſembly, 7th of April, 1775.

Reſolved, THAT the Houſe do highly approve of the Proceedings of the Continental Congreſs lately held at Philadelphia, and that they are determined, as members of the community in general, that they will ſtrictly adhere to the ſaid Reſolutions, and will uſe what influence they have, to induce the ſame obſervance in every individual of this province.

THIS Houſe having received information, that WILLIAM HOOPER, JOSEPH HEWES, and RICHARD CASWELL, Eſquires, were appointed by the Convention, held at Newbern, as Delegates to attend the meeting of the Continental Congreſs ſoon to be held at Philadelphia.

Reſolved, THAT the Houſe approve of the choice made by the ſaid Convention.

A true copy from the Journal of the Houſe of Aſſembly,

JAMES GREEN, junr. *Clerk.*

SOUTH-CAROLINA. *In the Commons Houſe of Aſſembly, Friday, 3d of February*, 1775.

WHEREAS the Continental Congreſs, held at the city of Philadelphia in September laſt, amongſt other things recommended to the ſeveral Colonies in North-America, to chuſe Deputies as ſoon as poſſible, to hold another Congreſs at the ſame place, on the tenth day of May next, and this Houſe being fully ſatisfied with

the conduct and fidelity of their late Deputies at the Congreſs, do hereby nominate and appoint the Hon. HENRY MIDDLETON, Eſquire, THOMAS LYNCH, CHRISTOPHER GADSDEN, JOHN RUTLEDGE and EDWARD RUTLEDGE, Eſquires, Deputies for and in behalf of this Colony, to meet the Deputies appointed, or to be appointed, on the part and behalf of the other Colonies, at the city of Philadelphia, or any other place, that ſhall be agreed on by the ſaid Deputies in General Congreſs, with full power and authority to concert, agree to and effectually purſue ſuch meaſures, as in the opinion of the ſaid Deputies and the Deputies to be aſſembled, ſhall be moſt likely to obtain a redreſs of American grievances.

Reſolved, THAT the Deputies hereby appointed on the part and behalf of this Colony, are authoriſed and empowered to agree, that the Continental Congreſs may meet at any future time and at ſuch place as ſhall be agreed on, and to adjourn from time to time; provided it do not exceed nine months from the date of their meeting in May next.

Atteſted, THOMAS FARR, junr. *Clerk*.

Extract from the Journals of the Provincial Congreſs of SOUTH CAROLINA, *publiſhed by order of the Congreſs*, 11*th of January*, 1775.

Reſolved, THAT the Hon. HENRY MIDDLETON, Eſq; THOMAS LYNCH, CHRISTOPHER GADSDEN, JOHN RUTLEDGE, and EDWARD RUTLEDGE,

RUTLEDGE, Eſquires, or any three of them be, and they are hereby appointed and authoriſed to repreſent this colony on the tenth day of May next, or ſooner, if neceſſary, at the American Congreſs, to be held at Philadelphia or elſewhere, with full power to concert, agree upon, direct and order ſuch further meaſures, as in the opinion of the ſaid Deputies and the Delegates of the other American Colonies to be aſſembled, ſhall appear to be neceſſary for the recovery and eſtabliſhment of American Rights and Liberties, and for reſtoring harmony between Great-Britain and her Colonies.

Upon motion, Reſolved, THAT the thanks of this Congreſs be given to the Rev. Mr. Duché, for performing Divine Service agreeable to the deſire of the Congreſs, and for his excellent Prayer ſo well adapted to the preſent occaſion.

Ordered, THAT Mr. *Bland*, Mr. *Willing*, and Mr. *Harrison*, be a committee to wait upon Mr. Duché and return the thanks of the Congreſs, agreeable to the above reſolution.

Upon motion, Reſolved, THAT the doors be kept ſhut during the time of buſineſs, and that the Members conſider themſelves under the ſtrongeſt obligations of honor to keep the proceedings ſecret, until the majority ſhall direct them to be made public.

A CIRCULAR letter from the Agents *William Bollan*, *Benjamin Franklin*, and *Arthur Lee*, Eſquires, directed to the Speakers of ſeveral Aſſemblies,

Note,—All the Members attended except thoſe marked thus *

Aſſemblies and ſundry papers therein referred to, were laid before the Congreſs and read; the letter is as follows:

London, February 5, 1775.

SIR,

OUR laſt letter informed you, that the King had declared his intentions of laying the Petition before his two Houſes of Parliament. It has accordingly been laid before each Houſe, but undiſtinguiſhed among a variety of letters and other papers from America.

A motion made by Lord Chatham to withdraw the troops from Boſton, as the firſt ſtep towards a conciliating plan, was rejected; and the miniſtry have declared in both houſes the determination to inforce obedience to all the late laws. For it is purpoſe we underſtand that three regiments of foot, one of dragoons, ſeven hundred marines, ſix ſloops of war, and two frigates are now under orders for America.

We think it proper to inform you, that your cauſe was well defended by a conſiderable number of good and wiſe men in both Houſes of Parliament, though far from being a majority: And that many of the commercial and manufacturing parts of the nation, concerned in the American trade, have preſented, or as we underſtand, are preparing to preſent petitions to parliament, declaring their great concern for the preſent unhappy controverſies with America, and praying expreſsly, or in effect, for healing

healing meaſures, as the proper means of preſerving their commerce now greatly ſuffering or endangered. But the treatment the petitions already preſented have hitherto received is ſuch, as, in our opinion, can afford you no reliance on the preſent relief through their means.

As ſoon as we learnt that the Petition of the Congreſs was before the Houſe of Commons, we thought it our duty to ſupport it, if we might be permitted ſo to do, as there was no other opportunity for the numerous Inhabitants of the Colonies to be heard in defence of their rights: Accordingly we joined in a petition for that purpoſe. Sir George Saville kindly undertook to preſent it. But on previouſly opening the purport of it, as the orders, a debate aroſe on the propriety of receiving it, and on a diviſion it was rejected by a great majority.

The following extract of a letter from General Gage to Lord Dartmouth, as laid before Parliament, we think it our duty to tranſmit, viz.

"*Dec. 15, 1774. Your Lordſhip's idea of diſarming certain provinces would doubtleſs be conſiſtent with prudence and ſafety, but it neither is nor has been practicable, without having recourſe to force, and being maſters of the country.*"

It was thrown out in debate by a principal member of adminiſtration, that it would be proper to alter the charters of Connecticut and Rhode-Iſland.

Incloſed

Inclosed we send you a copy of the Resolutions passed in a committee of the whole house on Thursday last, which are to be reported on Monday. It is said that these Resolutions are to be the foundation of several bills to be brought in, but the purport of those bills we have not yet learnt with sufficient certainty.

We send you likewise a copy of Lord Chatham's first motion in the House of Lords, and of his plan of a bill for settling the troubles between Great-Britain and the Colonies; both which were rejected on the first reading.

With great respect we are,

SIR,

Your most obedient humble Servants,

(Signed,) WILLIAM BOLLAN,
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN,
ARTHUR LEE.

THE papers referred to in the foregoing letter being published in the news papers, it is not necessary to insert them.

Mr. *Hancock*, laid before the Congress a letter from the Provincial Congress of Massachusetts-Bay, together with certain resolutions formed by said Congress, and a copy of a letter sent by said Congress to their Agent in England, and an Address to the inhabitants of Great-Britain, on the late engagement between the troops under General Gage and the inhabitants of Massachusetts Bay;

ſetts-Bay; alſo a number of depoſitions duly attested, relative to the commencement of ſaid hoſtilities, all which were read and are as follows.

In Provincial Congreſs, WATERTOWN, *May* 3, 1775.

To the honorable American Continental Congreſs, to be convened at Philadelphia, on the tenth of May, inſtant,

May it pleaſe your Honors,

THE Congreſs of this Colony, impreſſed with the deepeſt concern for their country under the preſent critical and alarming ſtate of its public affairs, beg leave with the utmoſt ſubmiſſion, whilſt acting in ſupport of the cauſe of America, to requeſt the direction and aſſiſtance of your reſpectable aſſembly.

The incloſed packet, containing the copies of depoſitions, which we have diſpatched for London, alſo an addreſs to the inhabitants of Great Britain, and a letter to our colony Agent, Benjamin Franklin, Eſq; are humbly ſubmitted to your conſideration.

The ſanguinary zeal of the miniſterial army, to ruin and deſtroy the inhabitants of this Colony, in the opinion of this Congreſs, hath rendered the eſtabliſhment of an army indiſpenſibly neceſſary; we have accordingly paſſed an unanimous reſolve for thirteen thouſand ſix hundred men to be forthwith raiſed by this Colony, and propoſals are made by us to the Congreſs of New-Hampſhire, and governments

ments of Rhode Island and Connecticut Colonies, for furnishing men in the same proportion.

The sudden exigency of our public affairs precluded the possibility of waiting for your direction in these important measures, more especially as a considerable reinforcement from Great-Britain is daily expected in this Colony, and we are now reduced to the sad alternative of defending ourselves by arms, or submitting to be slaughtered.

With the greatest deference, we beg leave to suggest, that a powerful army, on the side of America, hath been considered by this Congress, as the only means left to stem the rapid progress of a tyrannical ministry. Without a force superior to our enemies, we must reasonably expect to become the victims of their relentless fury. With such a force, we may still have hopes of seeing an immediate end put to the inhuman ravages of mercenary troops in America, and the wicked authors of our miseries brought to condign punishment, by the just indignation of our brethren in Great-Britain.

We hope that this colony will, on all times, be ready to spend and be spent in the cause of America. It is, nevertheless, a misfortune greatly operating to its disadvantage, that it has a great number of seaport towns exposed to the approach of the enemy by sea, from many of which the inhabitants have retired and are removing their families and effects, to avoid destruction from ships of war. These, we apprehend, will be generally distressed from want of subsistence, and disabled from contributing aid for supporting the forces of the Colony; but we have

have the greateſt confidence in the wiſdom and ability of the Continent to ſupport us, ſo far as it ſhall appear neceſſary for ſupporting the common cauſe of the American Colonies.

We alſo incloſe ſeveral reſolves for impowering and directing our receiver general to borrow the ſum of one hundred thouſand pounds, lawful money, and to iſſue his notes for the ſame, it being the only meaſures which we could have recourſe to for ſupporting our forces; and we requeſt your aſſiſtance in rendering our meaſures effectual, by giving our notes a currency through the Continent.

JOSEPH WARREN, *Preſident, P. T.*

The papers incloſed and referred to in the above are as follows:—

In Provincial Congreſs, WATERTOWN, *May* 3, 1775.

Reſolved, THAT the Receiver-General be, and hereby is impowered and directed, to borrow the ſum of one hundred thouſand pounds, lawful money, and iſſue colony ſecurity for the ſame, payable, with annual intereſt at ſix per cent, June 1ſt, 1777, and that the Continental Congreſs be deſired to recommend to the ſeveral Colonies, to give a currency to ſuch ſecurities.

A true extract from the minutes,

SAMUEL FREEMAN, *Secretary, P. T.*

In Provincial Congreſs, WATERTOWN, *May* 3, 1775.

Reſolved, THAT the ſecurities given by the Receiver General, for the monies borrowed by him, in purſuance of the aforegoing reſolve, be in the form following, *viz.*

Colony of the MASSACHUSETT'S-BAY.

No. the day of *A. D.* 177 borrowed and received of A. B. the ſum of lawful money, for the uſe and ſervice of the Colony of the Maſſachuſett's-Bay, and in behalf of ſaid Colony. I do hereby promiſe and oblige myſelf and ſucceſſors, in the office of Treaſurer or Receiver-General, to repay to the ſaid or to his order, the firſt day of June, 1777, the aforeſaid ſum of lawful money, in Spaniſh milled Dollars, at Six Shillings each, or in the ſeveral ſpecies of coined ſilver and gold enumerated in an Act made and paſſed in the 23d year of his late Majeſty King George the Second, intituled "An Act for aſcertaining the rates at "which coined ſilver and gold, Engliſh half-"pence and farthings, may paſs within this "government," and according to the rates therein mentioned, with intereſt, to be paid annually at ſix *per Cent.* Witneſs my hand

A. B.
C. D.
E. F.

AND whereas inconveniences may ariſe by the Receiver-General's iſſuing notes for ſmall ſums, therefore, *Reſolved*,

Reſolved, THAT the Receiver-General be, and he hereby is directed not to iſſue any notes for a leſs ſum than four pounds lawful money.

A true extract from the Minutes,

SAMUEL FREEMAN, *Sec. P. T.*

To the Hon. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, *Eſq; at London.*

In Provincial Congreſs, WATERTOWN, *April* 26, 1775.

" SIR,

" FROM the entire confidence we repoſe in your faithfulneſs and abilities, we conſider it the happineſs of this Colony, that the important truſt of Agency for it, in this day of unequaled diſtreſs, is devolved on your hands, and we doubt not your attachment to the cauſe of the Liberties of mankind will make every poſſible exertion in our behalf a pleaſure to you, altho' our circumſtances will compel us often to interrupt your repoſe by matters that will ſurely give you pain. A ſingular inſtance hereof is the occaſion of the preſent letter. The contents of this packet will be our apology for troubling you with it.

" FROM theſe you will ſee how and by whom we are at laſt plunged into the horrors of a moſt unnatural war.

" OUR

" Our enemies, we are told, have deſpatched to Great-Britain a falacious account of the tragedy they have begun; to prevent the operation of which to the public injury, we have engaged the veſſel that convey's this to you, as a Packet in the ſervice of this Colony, and we requeſt your aſſiſtance in ſupplying Capt. Derby, who commands her, with ſuch neceſſaries as he ſhall want, on the credit of your conſtituents in Maſſachuſett's-Bay.

" But we moſt ardently wiſh that the ſeveral papers herewith incloſed may be immediately printed and diſperſed through every town in England, and eſpecially communicated to the Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Council of the city of London, that they may take ſuch order thereon as they may think proper. And we are confident your fidelity will make ſuch improvement of them, as ſhall convince all who are not determined to be in everlaſting blindneſs, that it is the united efforts of both Englands that can ſave either. But that whatever price our brethren in the one may be pleaſed to put on their conſtitutional Liberties, we are authorized to aſſure you, that the inhabitants of the other, with the greateſt unanimity, are inflexibly reſolved to ſell their's only at the price of their lives.

Signed by order of the Provincial Congreſs,

Joseph Warren, *Preſident, P. T.*

A true copy from the original Minutes,

Samuel Freeman. *Sec. P. T.*"

The

THE Depoſitions relative to the commencement of Hoſtilities, are as follows:

Lexington, April 25, 1775.

"WE *Solomon Brown*, *Jonathan Loring*, and *Elijah Sanderſon*, all of lawful age, and of Lexington, in the county of Middleſex, and Colony of the Maſſachuſetts-Bay, in New-England, do teſtify and declare, that on the evening of the 18th of April, inſtant, being on the road between Concord and Lexington, and all of us mounted on horſes, we were about ten of the clock, ſuddenly ſurprized by nine perſons, whom we took to be regular Officers, who rode up to us, mounted and armed, each having a piſtol in his hand, and after putting piſtols to our breaſts, and ſeizing the bridles of our horſes, they ſwore if we ſtirred another ſtep, we ſhould be all dead men; upon which we ſurrendered ourſelves. They detained us until two o'clock the next morning, in which time they ſearched and greatly abuſed us, having firſt enquired about the magazine at Concord, whether any guards were poſted there, and whether the bridges were up, and ſaid four or five regiments of regulars would be in poſſeſſion of the ſtores ſoon. They then brought us back to Lexington, cut the horſes bridles and girts, turned them looſe, and then left us.

Solomon Brown,
Jonathan Loring,
Elijah Sanderſon,"

Lex-

Lexington, April 25, 1775.

"I *Elijah Sanderſon*, abovenamed, do further teſtify and declare, that I was on Lexington Common the morning of the 19th of April aforeſaid, having been diſmiſſed by the Officers abovementioned, and ſaw a large body of regular troops advancing towards Lexington company, many of whom were then diſperſing. I heard one of the regulars, whom I took to be an Officer, ſay, "damn them, we will have them," and immediately the regulars ſhouted aloud, ran and fired on the Lexington company, which did not fire a gun before the regulars diſcharged on them. Eight of the Lexington company were killed while they were diſperſing, and at a conſiderable diſtance from each other, and many wounded, and altho' a ſpectator, I narrowly eſcaped with my life.

Elijah Sanderſon."

Lexington, April 23, 1775.

"I *Thomas Rice Willard*, of lawful age, do teſtify and declare, that being in the houſe of Daniel Harrington, of ſaid Lexington, on the 19th inſtant, in the morning, about half an hour before ſun-riſe, looked out at the window of ſaid houſe, and ſaw (as I ſuppoſe) about four hundred regulars in one body, coming up the road and marched towards the North part of the common back of the meeting-houſe of ſaid Lexington, and as ſoon as ſaid regulars were againſt the eaſt end of the meeting-houſe, the commanding Officer ſaid ſomething, what I know not, but upon that the regulars ran till

they

they came within about eight or nine rods of about an hundred of the militia of Lexington, who were collected on said common, at which time the militia of Lexington dispersed, then the Officers made an huzza, and the private soldiers succeeded them, directly after this an Officer rode before the regulars, to the other side of the body, and hallooed after the militia of said Lexington, and said, "Lay down your arms, damn you, why dont you lay down your arms," and that there was not a gun fired till the militia of Lexington were dispersed, and further saith not.

Thomas Rice Willard."

Lexington, 25th of April, 1775.

"*Simon Winship*, of Lexington, in the county of Middlesex, and province of Massachusetts-Bay, New-England, being of lawful age, testifieth and saith, that on the 19th of April, instant, about four o'clock in the morning, as he was passing the public road in said Lexington, peaceably and unarmed, about two miles and an half distant from the meeting-house in said Lexington, he was met by a body of the King's regular troops, and being stopped by some Officers of said troops, was commanded to dismount, upon asking why he must dismount, he was obliged by force to quit his horse and ordered to march in the midst of the body, and being examined whether he had been warning the minute men, he answered no, but had been out and was then returning to his father's. Said Winship further testifies, that he marched with said troops till he came within

about half a quarter of a mile of said meeting-house, where an Officer commanded the troops to halt, and then to prime and load, this being done the said troops marched on till they came within a few rods of Capt. Parker's company, who were partly collected on the place of parade, when said Winship observed an Officer at the head of said troops, flourishing his sword, and with a loud voice giving the word fire, fire, which was instantly followed by a discharge of arms from said regular troops, and said Winship is positive and in the most solemn manner declares, that there was no discharge of arms on either side till the word fire was given by said Officer as above.

Simon Winship."

Lexington, April 25, 1775.

" I *John Parker*, of lawful age, and commander of the militia in Lexington, do testify and declare, that on the 19th instant, in the morning, about one of the clock, being informed that there were a number of regular Officers riding up and down the road, stopping and insulting people as they passed the road; and also was informed that a number of regular troops were on their march from Boston, in order to take the province stores at Concord, ordered our militia to meet on the Common in said Lexington, to consult what to do, and concluded not to be discovered, nor meddle or make with said regular troops (if they should approach) unless they should insult or molest us;---and upon their sudden approach I immediately ordered our Militia to disperse and

not

not to fire.---Immediately ſaid troops made their appearance and ruſhed furiouſly, fired upon and killed eight of our party, without receiving any provocation therefor from us.

John Parker."

Lexington, April 24, 1775.

"I *John Robins*, being of lawful age, do teſtify and ſay, that on the 19th inſt. the company under the command of Capt. John Parker, being drawn up (ſometime before ſun riſe) on the green or common, and I being in the front rank, there ſuddenly appeared a number of the King's troops, about a thouſand as I thought, at the diſtance of about 60 or 70 yards from us huzzaing, and on a quick pace towards us, with three officers in their front on horſe-back and on full gallop towards us, the foremoſt of which cried, throw down your arms ye villains, ye rebels, upon which ſaid company diſperſing, the foremoſt of the three officers ordered their men, ſaying fire, by God fire, at which moment we received a very heavy and cloſe fire from them, at which inſtant, being wounded I fell, and ſeveral of our men were ſhot dead by me. Capt. Parker's men I believe had not then fired a gun, and further the deponent ſaith not.

John Robins."

Lexington, April 25, 1775.

"We *Benjamin Tidd*, of Lexington, and *Joſeph Abbot*, of Lincoln, in the county of Middleſex, and colony of Maſſachuſetts Bay, in New-England, of lawful age, do teſtify and declare, that on the morning of the 19th of

April inſtant, about five o'clock being on Lexington common, and mounted on horſes, we ſaw a body of regular troops marching up to the Lexington Company, which was then diſperſing: Soon after the regulars fired, firſt a few guns, which we took to be piſtols, from ſome of the regulars who were mounted on horſes, and then the ſaid regulars fired a volley or two, before any guns were fired by the Lexington Company; our horſes immediately ſtarted, and we rode off. And further ſay not,

Benjamin Tidd,
Joſeph Abbot."

Lexington, April 25, 1775.

"WE *Nathaniel Mullekin, Philip Ruſſell, Moſes Harrington*, jun. *Thomas* and *Daniel Harrington, William Grimes, William Tidd, Iſaac Haſtings, Jonas Stone*, jun. *James Wyman, Thaddeus Harrington, John Chandler, Joſhua Reed*, jun. *Joſeph Simonds, Phineas Smith, John Chandler*, jun. *Reuben Lock, Joel Viles, Nathan Reed, Samuel Tidd, Benjamin Lock, Thomas Winſhip, Simeon Snow, John Smith, Moſes Harrington* the 3d, *Joſhua Reed, Ebenezer Parker, John Harrington, Enoch Willington, John Horner, Iſaac Green, Phineas Stearns, Iſaac Durant*, and *Thomas Headley*, jun. all of lawful age, and inhabitants of Lexington, in the county of Middleſex, and colony of the Maſſachuſetts Bay, in New-England, do teſtify and declare, that on the 19th of April inſtant, about one or two o'clock in the morning, being informed that ſeveral officers of the regulars had the evening before been riding up and down the road, and

had

had detained and inſulted the inhabitants paſſing the ſame; and alſo underſtanding that a body of regulars were marching from Boſton towards Concord, with intent (as it was ſuppoſed) to take the ſtores belonging to the colony in that town, we were alarmed, and having met at the place of our company's parade, were diſmiſſed by our Captain, John Parker, for the preſent, with orders to be ready to attend at the beat of the drum. We further teſtify and declare, that about five o'clock in the morning, hearing our drum beat, we proceeded towards the parade, and ſoon found that a large body of troops were marching towards us: Some of our company were coming up to the parade, and others had reached it, at which time the company began to diſperſe: Whilſt our backs were turned on the troops we were fired on by them, and a number of our men were inſtantly killed and wounded. Not a gun was fired by any perſon in our company on the regulars to our knowledge, before they fired on us, and they continued firing until we had all made our eſcape.

Signed by each of the above deponents."

Lexington, 25th of April, 1775.

"We, *Nathaniel Parkhurſt, Jonas Parker, John Munroe,* jun. *John Winſhip, Solomon Pierce, John Muzzy, Abner Meeds, John Bridge,* jun. *Ebenezer Bowman, William Munroe,* the 3d, *Micah Heger, Samuel Saunderſon, Samuel Haſtings,* and *James Brown,* of Lexington, in the county of Middleſex, and Colony of Maſſachuſett's-Bay, in New-England, and all of lawful age, do teſtify and ſay, that on the morning of the nineteenth

teenth of April inſtant, about one or two o'clock, being informed that a number of regular officers had been riding up and down the road the evening and night preceeding, and that ſome of the inhabitants as they were paſſing, had been inſulted by the officers and ſtopped by them; and being alſo informed that the regular troops were on their march from Boſton, in order (as it was ſaid) to take the Colony ſtores, then depoſited at Concord, we met on the parade of our company in this town; after the company had collected, we were ordered by Capt. Parker (who commanded us) to diſperſe for the preſent, and to be ready to attend the beat of the drum, and accordingly the company went into houſes near the place of parade. We further teſtify and ſay, that about five o'clock in the morning we attended the beat of our drum and were formed on the parade, we were faced towards the regulars then marching up to us, and ſome of our company were coming to the parade with their backs towards the troops, and others on the parade began to diſperſe when the regulars fired on the company before a gun was fired by any of our company on them. They killed eight of our company and wounded ſeveral, and continued their fire until we had all made our eſcape.

Signed by each of the above deponents."

Lexington, April 25, 1775.

"I *Timothy Smith*, of Lexington, in the county of Middleſex, and colony of Maſſachuſetts-Bay, in New-England, being of lawful age, do teſtify and declare, that on the morning

ing of the nineteenth of April inſtant, being on Lexington common as a ſpectator, I ſaw a large body of regular troops marching up towards the Lexington company then diſperſing, and likewiſe ſaw the regular troops fire on the Lexington company before the latter fired a gun; I immediately ran, and a volley was diſcharged at me, which put me in imminent danger of loſing my life: I ſoon returned to the common and ſaw eight of the Lexington men who were killed and lay bleeding at a conſiderable diſtance from each other; and ſeveral were wounded, and further ſaith not,

Timothy Smith."

Lexington, April 25, 1775.

"We *Levi Mead* and *Levi Harrington*, both of Lexington, in the county of Middleſex, and colony of Maſſachuſetts-Bay, in New-England, and of lawful age, do teſtify and declare, that on the morning of the 19th of April, being on Lexington commons, as ſpectators, we ſaw a large body of regular troops marching up towards the Lexington Company, and ſome of the regulars on horſes, whom we took to be officers, fired a piſtol or two on the Lexington Company, which was then diſperſing: Theſe were the firſt guns that were fired, and they were immediately followed by ſeveral vollies from the regulars, by which eight men belonging to ſaid company were killed, and ſeveral wounded.

Levi Harrington,
Levi Mead."

Lex-

Lexington, April 25, 1775.

" I *William Draper*, of lawful age, and an inhabitant of Colrain, in the county of Hampſhire, and colony of Maſſachuſetts-Bay, in New-England, do teſtify and declare, that being on the parade of ſaid Lexington, April 19th inſtant, about half an hour before ſunriſe, the King's regular troops appeared at the meeting-houſe of Lexington. Capt. Parker's company, who were drawn up back of ſaid meeting houſe on the parade turned from ſaid troops, making their eſcape by diſperſing; in the mean time the regular troops made an huzza and ran towards Capt. Parker's company who were diſperſing, and immediately after the huzza was made the commanding officer of ſaid troops (as I took him) gave the command to the ſaid troops fire! " fire! damn you fire!" and immediately they fired before any of Captain Parker's company fired, I then being within three or four rods of ſaid regular troops: And further ſay not,

William Draper."

Lexington, April 23, 1775.

" I *Thomas Feſſenden*, of lawful age, teſtify and declare, that being in a paſture near the Meeting-Houſe, at ſaid Lexington, on Wedneſday laſt, at about half an hour before ſunriſe, I ſaw a number of regular troops paſs ſpeedily by ſaid Meeting-Houſe, on their way towards a company of militia of ſaid Lexington, who were aſſembled to the number of about one hundred in a company, at the diſtance of 18 or 20 rods from ſaid Meeting-Houſe; and

after

after they had paſſed by ſaid Meeting-Houſe, I ſaw three officers on horſe-back advance to the front of ſaid regulars, when one of them, being within ſix rods of the ſaid militia, cried out, "diſperſe you rebels immediately," on which he brandiſhed his ſword over his head three times; mean while the ſecond officer, who was about two rods behind him, fired a piſtol, pointed at ſaid militia, and the regulars kept huzzaing till he had finiſhed brandiſhing his ſword, and when he had thus finiſhed brandiſhing his ſword, he pointed it down towards ſaid militia, and immediately on which the ſaid regulars fired a volley at the militia, and then I ran off as faſt as I could, while they continued firing till I got out of their reach. I further teſtify, that as ſoon as ever the Officer cried "diſperſe you rebels," the ſaid company of Militia diſperſed every way as faſt as they could, and while they were diſperſing, the regulars kept firing at them inceſſantly. And further ſaith not.

Thomas Feſſenden."

Lincoln, April 23, 1775.

"I *John Bateman*, belonging to the fifty-ſecond regiment, commanded by Colonel Jones, on Wedneſday morning, on the 19th day of April inſtant, was in the party marching to Concord, being at Lexington, in the county of Middleſex, being nigh the meeting houſe in ſaid Lexington, there was a ſmall party of men gathered together in that place, when our ſaid troops marched by, and I teſtify an I declare, that I heard the word of command given to the troops to fire, and ſome of ſaid troops did fire,

and I ſaw one of ſaid ſmall party lay dead on the ground nigh ſaid meeting-houſe; and I teſtify that I never heard any of the inhabitants ſo much as fire one gun on ſaid troops.

John Bateman."

Lexington, April 23, 1775.

"We *John Hoar*, *John Whitehead*, *Abraham Garfield*, *Benjamin Munroe*, *Iſaac Parks*, *William Hoſmer*, *John Adams*, *Gregory Stone*, all of Lincoln, in the county of Middleſex, Maſſachuſetts-Bay, all of lawful age, do teſtify and ſay, that on Wedneſday laſt we were aſſembled at Concord, in the morning of ſaid day, in conſequence of information received, that a brigade of regular troops were on their march to the ſaid town of Concord, who had killed ſix men at the town of Lexington; about an hour afterwards we ſaw them approaching, to the number, as we apprehended, of about twelve hundred, on which we retreated to a hill about eighty rods back, and the ſaid troops then took poſſeſſion of the hill, where we were firſt poſted; preſently after this we ſaw the troops moving towards the North-Bridge, about one mile from the ſaid Concord meeting-houſe, we then immediately went before them and paſſed the bridge juſt before a party of them, to the number of about two hundred, arrived; they there left about one half of their two hundred at the bridge, and proceeded with the reſt towards Col. Barrett's, about two miles from the ſaid bridge; we then ſeeing ſeveral fires in the town, thought the houſes in Concord were in danger, and marched towards the ſaid bridge, and the troops

troops that were ſtationed there, obſerving our approach, marched back over the bridge and then took up ſome of the planks; we then haſtened our march towards the bridge, and when we had got near the bridge they fired on our men, firſt three guns, one after the other, and then a conſiderable number more; and then, and not before, (having orders from our commanding Officers not to fire till we were fired upon) we fired upon the regulars and they retreated. On their retreat through the town of Lexington to Charleſtown, they ravaged and deſtroyed private property, and burnt three houſes, one barn, and one ſhop.

Signed by each of the above Deponents."

Lexington, April 23, 1775.

"We, *Nathan Barret*, Captain, *Jonathan Farrar*, *Joſeph Butler*, and *Francis Wheeler*, Lieutenants, *John Barret*, Enſign, *John Brown*, *Silas Walker*, *Ephraim Melvin*, *Nathan Buttrick*, *Stephen Hoſmer*, jun. *Samuel Barret*, *Thomas Jones*, *Joſeph Chandler*, *Peter Wheeler*, *Nathan Pierce*, and *Edward Richardſon*, all of Concord, in the County of Middleſex, in the Province of Maſſachuſett's-Bay. of lawful age, teſtify and declare, that on Wedneſday the nineteenth inſtant, about an hour after ſun riſe we aſſembled on a hill near the Meeting-houſe in Concord aforeſaid, in conſequence of an information that a number of regular troops had killed ſix of our countrymen at Lexington, and were on their march to ſaid Concord; and about an hour afterwards we ſaw them approaching, to the number, as we imagine, of about twelve hundred; on which we

retreated to a hill about eighty rods back, and the aforesaid troops then took possession of a hill where we were first posted. Presently after this we saw them moving towards the North Bridge, about one mile from said Meeting-house, we then immediately went before them, and passed the bridge just before a party of them, to the number of about two hundred, arrived. They there left about one half of these two hundred at the bridge, and proceeded with the rest towards Colonel Barret's, about two miles from the said bridge. We then seeing several fires in the town, thought our houses were in danger, and immediately marched back towards said bridge, and the troops who were stationed there, observing our approach, marched back over the bridge, and then took up some of the planks. We then hastned our steps towards the bridge, and when we had got near the bridge, they fired on our men, first three guns one after the other, and then a considerable number more: Upon which, and not before, (having orders from our Commanding Officer not to fire till we were fired upon) we fired upon the regulars, and they retreated. At Concord and on their retreat thro' Lexington, they plundered many houses, burnt three at Lexington, together with a shop and barn, and committed damage more or less to almost every house from Concord to Charlestown.

Signed by the above Deponents.

"We, *Joseph Butler* and *Ephraim Melvin*, do testify and declare, that when the regular troops fired upon our people at the North bridge in Concord, as related in the foregoing depositions, they

they ſhot one, and we believe two, of our people, before we fired a ſingle gun at them.

Joſeph Butler,
Lexington, April 23, 1775. *Ephraim Melvin.*"

Concord, April 23, 1775.

" I, *Timothy Minot*, junior, of Concord, on the nineteenth day of this inſtant, April, after that I had heard of the regular troops firing upon Lexington men, and fearing that hoſtilities might be committed at Concord, thought it my incumbent duty to ſecure my family—After I had ſecured my family, ſome time after that, returning towards my own dwelling, and finding that the bridge on the north part of ſaid Concord was guarded by regular troops, being a ſpectator of what had happened at ſaid bridge, declare, that the regular troops ſtationed on ſaid bridge, after they ſaw the men that were collected on the weſterly ſide of ſaid bridge marched towards ſaid bridge, then the troops returned towards the eaſterly ſide of ſaid bridge and formed themſelves, as I thought, for regular fight; after that they fired one gun, then two or three more, before the men that were ſtationed on the weſterly part of ſaid bridge fired upon them.

Timothy Minot, junior.

Lexington, April 23, 1775.

" I, *James Barrett*, of Concord, Colonel of a regiment of militia in the County of Middleſex, do teſtify and ſay, that on Wedneſday morning laſt, about day break, I was informed of the approach of a number of the regular troops to the town of Concord, where were ſome magazines belonging

belonging to this province, when there was aſſembled ſome of the militia of this and the neighbouring towns, I ordered them to march to the North Bridge (ſo called) which they had paſſed and were taking up. I ordered ſaid militia to march to ſaid bridge and paſs the ſame, but not to fire on the King's troops unleſs they were firſt fired upon. We advanced near ſaid bridge, when the ſaid troops fired upon our militia and killed two men dead on the ſpot, and wounded ſeveral others, which was the firſt firing of guns in the town of Concord: My detachment then returned the fire, which killed and wounded ſeveral of the King's troops.

James Barrett."

Lexington, April 23, 1775.

"We, *Pradbury Robinſon*, *Samuel Spring*, *Thaddeus Bancroft*, all of Concord; and *James Adams*, of Lexington, all in the County of Middleſex, all of lawful age, do teſtify and ſay, that on Wedneſday morning laſt, near ten of the clock, we ſaw near one hundred of the regular troops, being in the town of Concord at the North Bridge in ſaid town (ſo called) and having paſſed the ſame they were taking up ſaid bridge, when about three hundred of our militia were advancing toward ſaid bridge, in order to paſs ſaid bridge, when, without ſaying any thing to us, they diſcharged a number of guns on us, which killed two men dead on the ſpot, and wounded ſeveral others; when we returned the fire on them, which killed two of them and

wounded

wounded feveral, which was the beginning of hoſtilities in the town of Concord.

Bradbury Robinſon,
Samuel Spring,
Thaddeus Barrett,
James Adams."

Worceſter, April 26, 1775.

"*Hannah Bradiſh*, of that part of Cambridge, called Menotomy, and daughter of Timothy Paine, of Worceſter, in the county of Worceſter, Eſq; of lawful age, teſtifies and ſays, That about five o'clock on Wedneſday laſt, afternoon, being in her bed-chamber, with her infant child, about eight days old, ſhe was ſurpriſed by the firing of the King's troops and our people, on their return from Concord. She being weak and unable to go out of her houſe, in order to ſecure herſelf and family, they all retired into the kitchen, in the back part of the houſe. She ſoon found the houſe ſurrounded with the King's troops; that upon obſervation made, at leaſt ſeventy bullets were ſhot into the front part of the houſe; ſeveral bullets lodged in the kitchen where ſhe was, and one paſſed through an eaſy chair ſhe had juſt gone from. The door of the front part of the houſe was broke open; ſhe did not ſee any ſoldiers in the houſe, but ſuppoſed, by the noiſe, they were in the front. After the troops had gone off, ſhe miſſed the following things, which, ſhe verily believes, were taken out of the houſe by the King's troops, viz. one rich brocade gown, called a negligee, one luteſtring gown, one white quilt, one pair of brocade ſhoes, three

ſilk,

ſhifts, eight white aprons, three caps, one caſe of ivory knives and forks, and ſeveral other ſmall articles.

Hannah Bradiſh."

Province of the Maſſachuſetts-Bay, } *Worceſter*, ſſ. *April* 26, 1775.

" Mrs. *Hannah Bradiſh*, the above deponent maketh oath before us, the ſubſcribers, two of his Majeſty's Juſtices of the Peace for the county of Worceſter and of the quorum, that the above depoſition, according to her beſt recollection, is the truth. Which depoſition is taken in perpetuam rei memoriam.

Thomas Steel,
Timothy Paine."

Concord, April 23, 1775.

" I *James Marr*, of lawful age, teſtify and ſay, that in the evening of the eighteenth inſtant, I received orders from George Hutchinſon, Adjutant of the fourth regiment of the regular troops ſtationed at Boſton, to prepare and march: To which order I attended, and marched to Concord, where I was ordered by an Officer with about one hundred men, to guard a certain bridge there; while attending that ſervice, a number of people came along, in order, as I ſuppoſe, to croſs ſaid bridge, at which time a number of the regular troops firſt fired upon them.

James Marr.

Med.

[illegible], 1775.

[illegible] jesty's own [illegible], [illegible] do [illegible] that on the evening of the [illegible] inst., under the orders of General [illegible], I [illegible] with the light infantry and grenadiers of the [illegible] regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel [illegible], and [illegible] from Boston to Cambridge, from whence we proceeded to Lexington; on our arrival at that place, we saw a body of provincial troops armed to the number of about fifty or seventy men, on our approach they dispersed; soon after fifty more, from which [illegible] fired first I cannot exactly say, a number [illegible] on shooting, and hostilities, perhaps to the following, which [illegible] before our troops [illegible] any of the provincials were to be seen. I found it necessary to [illegible] Concord, on a hill near the town, [illegible] another body of [illegible] the high road to try [illegible] up the hill to disperse them; on our approach they retreated towards Concord; the grenadiers continued the road over the hill towards the town. Six companies of light infantry were ordered down to take possession of a bridge which the provincials had passed over; the company I commanded was one, three companies of the above detachment went forwards about two miles; in the mean time the grenadiers returned, to the number of about three or four hundred. We drew up on the Concord side of the bridge, the provincials came down upon us, from which we engaged and gave the first fire; this was the first engagement after the [illegible] [illegible], a

[illegible] continued

continued firing from both parties laſted through the whole day; I myſelf was wounded at the attack of the bridge, and am now treated with the greateſt humanity, and taken all poſſible care of by the provincials at Medford.

Edward Thoroton Gould, Lieut.
King's own Regiment.

Province of Maſſachuſetts-Bay, Middleſex County, April 25, 1775.

"Lieut. *Thoroton Gould*, aforenamed, perſonally made Oath to the truth of the foregoing declaration by him ſubſcribed, before us,

Thad. Maſſon, Joſiah Johnſon, Simon Tufts, Juſtices of the peace, for the county aforeſaid, *Quorum unus.*

Province of Maſſachuſett's-Bay, Charleſtown, ſſ.

"I, *Nathaniel Gorham*, Notary and Tabellion Public, by lawful authority duly admitted and ſworn, hereby certify, to all whom it doth or may concern, That *Thadeus Maſon, Joſiah Johnſon*, and *Simon Tufts*, Eſquires, are three of his Majeſty's Juſtices of the Peace *(Quorum unus)* for the county of Middleſex; and that full faith and credit is, and ought to be given to their tranſactions as ſuch, both in court and out. In Witneſs whereof, I have hereunto affixed my name and ſeal, this twenty-ſixth day of April, *Anno Domini*, one thouſand ſeven hundred and ſeventy-five.

Nathaniel Gorham, Notary Public." (L.S.)

(All the above Depoſitions are ſworn to before Juſtices of the Peace, and duely atteſted by Notaries Public, in manner of the laſt one.)

In

In Provincial Congreſs, WATERTOWN, *April* 26, 1775.

To the INHABITANTS *of* GREAT BRITAIN.

Friends and Fellow Subjects,

"HOSTILITIES are at length commenced in this Colony by the troops under the command of General Gage, and it being of the greateſt importance, that an early, true, and authentic account of this inhuman proceeding ſhould be known to you, the Congreſs of this Colony have tranſmitted the ſame, and from want of a ſeſſion of the Hon. Continental Congreſs, think it proper to addreſs you on the alarming occaſion.

"BY the cleareſt depoſitions relative to this tranſaction, it will appear that on the night preceding the nineteenth of April inſtant, a body of the King's troops, under the command of Colonel Smith, were ſecretly landed at Cambridge, with an apparent deſign to take or deſtroy the military and other ſtores provided for the defence of this Colony, and depoſited at Concord—That ſome inhabitants of the Colony, on the night aforeſaid, whilſt travelling peaceably on the road between Boſton and Concord, were ſeized and greatly abuſed by armed men, who appeared to be Officers of General Gage's army, that the town of Lexington by theſe means was alarmed, and a company of the inhabitants muſtered on the occaſion—That the regular troops, on their way to Concord, marched into the ſaid town of Lexington, and the

ſaid company on their approach began to diſperſe---That notwithſtanding this, the regulars rushed on with great violence and firſt began hoſtilities, by firing on ſaid Lexington company, whereby they killed eight and wounded ſeveral others.---That the regulars continued their fire until thoſe of ſaid company, who were neither killed nor wounded, had made their eſcape---That Col. Smith with the detachment then marched to Concord, where a number of provincials were again fired on by the troops, two of them killed and ſeveral wounded, before the provincials fired on them, and that theſe hoſtile meaſures of the troops produced an engagement that laſted through the day, in which many of the provincials, and more of the regular troops were killed and wounded.

"To give a particular account of the ravages of the troops, as they retreated from Concord to Charleſtown, would be very difficult, if not impracticable; let it ſuffice to ſay, that a great number of the houſes on the road were plundered and rendered unfit for uſe; ſeveral were burnt, women in child-bed were driven, by the ſoldiery, naked into the ſtreets; old men peaceably in their houſes were ſhot dead; and ſuch ſcenes exhibited as would diſgrace the annals of the moſt uncivilized nations.

"THESE, Brethern, are marks of miniſterial vengeance againſt this Colony, for refuſing, with her ſiſter Colonies, a ſubmiſſion to Slavery; but they have not yet detached us from our Royal Sovereign. We profeſs to be his loyal and dutiful

ſubjects,

fuſpects, and ſo hardly dealt with as we have been of late already, with our lives and fortunes, to the diſpoſition, frailty, wants and dignity. [illegible] to the Perpetration and Tyranny of [illegible] we will moſt humbly ſubmit [illegible] to Heaven for the juſtice of our [illegible] determined to die or be free.

"WE cannot think that the Honor, Wiſdom and Valour of BRITAIN will ſuffer them to be the inſtruments of meaſures, in which they themſelves are ſo deeply intereſted—Meaſures purſued in oppoſition to the ſolemn proteſts of [illegible] and expreſſed ſenſe of conſtituents—Counſels, whoſe knowledge and virtue have long ſtigmatized them as foes of the greateſt men in the nation—Meaſures executing contrary to the intereſt, petitions and reſolves of many large, reſpectable and opulent counties, cities and boroughs in GREAT-BRITAIN—Meaſures highly incompatible with juſtice, but ſtill purſued with the ſpecious pretence of eaſing the nation of its burthens—Meaſures, which if ſucceſsful, muſt end in the ruin and ſlavery of BRITAIN, as well as the perſecuted American Colonies.

"WE ſincerely hope, that the Great Sovereign of the Univerſe, who hath ſo often appeared for the Engliſh Nation, will ſupport you in every rational and manly exertion with theſe Colonies, for ſaving it from ruin, and that in a conſtitutional connection with the Mother

Country,

Country, we ſhall ſoon be altogether a free and happy people.

Per Order,

JOSEPH WARREN, *Preſident*, *P. T.*"

Ordered, THAT the Secretary have the above Depoſitions and the Addreſs to the Inhabitants of Great-Britain publiſhed.

Reſolved, *N. C. D.* THAT the Congreſs will on Monday next reſolve itſelf into a Committee of the whole, to take into conſideration the ſtate of America.

Ordered, THAT the letter from the Provincial Congreſs of Maſſachuſetts-Bay be referred to that Committee.

Adjourned till to-morrow at ten o'clock, and from thence to Saturday.

SATURDAY, *May* 13, 1775.

THE Congreſs met according to adjournment.

THE Congreſs being informed that Doctor LYMAN HALL attended at the door as a Delegate from the pariſh of St. John's, in the colony of Georgia, and deſired to know whether as ſuch he may be admitted to this Congreſs.

Agreed unanimouſly, THAT he be admitted as a Delegate from the pariſh of St. John's, in the colony

colony of Georgia, subject to such regulations as the Congress shall determine, relative to his voting.

Mr. LYMAN HALL being accordingly admitted, produced his credentials, which were read and approved, and are as follows:

"*To the honorable* GENTLEMEN *of the* CONGRESS, *designed to be held at Philadelphia on May, A. D.* 1775.

"*The Address of the Inhabitants of the Parish of St. John's, in the province of Georgia.*

"GENTLEMEN,

"To give a particular detail of our many struggles in the cause of liberty, the many meetings thereby occasioned and held in this parish, the endeavours we have used to induce the rest of this province to concur with us, the attendance of our Committee on the provincial Conventions held at Savannah in this province, and particularly that of the 18th of January last, with their proceedings, and the reasons of our diffent from them, we think would be tedious to you, and therefore find a summary abstract, which, with the account, that may be given by LYMAN HALL Esq; appointed a Delegate to represent and act for this parish in the general Continental Congress, to be held in May next, and the testimonies of the honorable Delegates from South-Carolina, we hope will be satisfactory.

IMME-

" IMMEDIATELY upon our being favoured with an answer to the representation [illegible], transmitted to the honorable C[illegible] laft at Philadelphia laft year, we [illegible] Affociation there entered into, we [illegible] ing, and our proceedings thereon and [illegible] time, will in brief appear from the following abftracts of an Addrefs from this Committee to the Committee of Correfpondence in Charles-Town, South-Carolina, which is as follows.

" *Gentlemen*,

" HEREWITH will be communicated to you, the feveral fteps taken by the Parifh in their endeavours to conform as near as poffible to the Refolutions entered into by the other Colonies: and the particular meafures now adopted for carrying into execution the Continental Affociation, which we embraced the earlieft opportunity of acceeding to by fubfcribing it; on condition that trade and commerce with the other colonies be continued to us the fubfcribers; and thereupon fhould have immediately fent to you for your approbation and indemnity, but were delayed by a fummons to attend a Provincial Congrefs in Savannah, on the 18th of January laft, for the purpofe, as we underftood, of a general Affociation with the other Colonies, and chufing Delegates: At which time and place we attended, and acquainted the other parifhes aflembled on that occafion, that we had already acceded to the general Affociation, on condition, as abovementioned, and earneftly requefted them to do the fame. Had

they

they acceded fully to the general Aſſociation, we ſhould have had no occaſion to trouble you with this Addreſs; but as they did not, we now apply to you, to admit us the ſubſcribers to an alliance with you, requeſting that you will allow trade and commerce to be continued to us, the ſame to be conducted under ſuch regulations and reſtrictions, as ſhall be conſiſtent with the Continental Aſſociation, and which on our part we engage with all poſſible care to keep inviolate. As we of this Pariſh are a body detached from the reſt (i. e. of this province) by our reſolutions, and ſufficiently diſtinct by local ſituation, large enough for particular notice, adjoining a particular port, and in that reſpect, capable of conforming to the general Aſſociation, if connected with you, with the ſame fidelity as a diſtant pariſh of your own province; we muſt be conſidered as comprehended within the ſpirit and equitable meaning of the Continental Aſſociation, and hope you will not condemn the innocent with the guilty eſpecially when a due ſeparation is made between them.

'GIVE us leave to add only, that we wait your anſwer, ſhall be glad of your advice, and are, with eſteem,

'Gentlemen,

'Yours, &c.'

St. John's, 9*th* *February*, 1775.

" *To which we received the following Anſwer :*"

' *Gentlemen,*

' YOUR letter, accompanying ſundry papers, having been laid before a very full Committee of this colony, and undergone the moſt mature deliberation : I am by their deſire, to acquaint you, that they have the higheſt ſenſe of your arduous ſtruggles in favour of the common cauſe of America ; and moſt ſincerely lament your preſent unhappy ſituation : But would recommend a continuance of your laudable exertions, and the laying a ſtate of your caſe before the enſuing Continental Congreſs, as the only means of obtaining relief, and to put you in the ſituation you wiſh, which this Committee apprehend to be entirely out of their power to do, as it is their opinion, that the pariſh of St. John, being a part of the colony of Georgia (which, by not acceding to, has violated the Continental Aſſociation) falls under the 14th article of the ſaid Aſſociation, no part of which any Committee can preſume to do away, &c.'

" UPON the receipt of this anſwer, it was ſeriouſly conſidered in what manner to conduct in the preſent ſituation ; and propoſed whether we ſhould immediately break off all connexion and commerce with Savannah and all other inhabitants of this province, who have not fully acceded to the continental Aſſociation.

" IT was conſidered, that as we were denied commerce with any other colony, and but one merchant among us conſiderable for dry goods had

had ſigned our Aſſociation, and he inſufficient for a preſent ſupply, and we utterly unable at preſent to procure materials or manufactures for clothing among ourſelves, we muſt, by ſuch a reſolution become extremely miſerable; it was therefore concluded, that till we could obtain trade and commerce with ſome other colony, it is abſolutely neceſſary to continue it in ſome reſpects with our own, and determined that it be carried on under the following regulations.

" 1. That none of us ſhall directly or indirectly purchaſe any ſlave imported at Savannah, (large numbers of which we underſtand are there expected,) till the ſenſe of the Congreſs ſhall be made known to us.

" 2. That we will not trade at all with any merchant at Savannah or elſewhere, that will not join in our aſſociating Agreement, otherwiſe than under the inſpection of a Committee for that purpoſe appointed, and for ſuch things only as they ſhall judge neceſſary, and when they ſhall think there are neceſſary reaſons for ſo doing.

" A Committee was then nominated and appointed to ſit weekly on Thurſdays, for the purpoſes aforeſaid.

" It was then reſolved that a Delegate be ſent from this pariſh to the Congreſs, to be held at Philadelphia in May next, and that Tueſday the 21ſt of March be appointed for chuſing one.

" On the ſaid 21ſt of March, at a full meeting Lyman Hall, Eſq; was unanimouſly choſen to repreſent and act for the inhabitants of this pariſh, as a Delegate, at the general Congreſs to be held in Philadelphia in May next, who are determined faithfully to adhere to and abide by the determinations of him and the other honorable Members of the ſame.

" *Signed by order of the inhabitants,*

" *By* Daniel Roberts, *and twenty others, Members of the Committee.*

Midway, St. John's Pariſh, in the province of Georgia, 23th April, A. D. 1775."

A Petition from the county of Frederic, in Virginia, addreſſed to the Congreſs, was preſented and read.

Agreed, That it be referred to the Committee on Monday.

Adjourned till Monday at 9 o'clock.

Monday, *May* 15, 1775.

The Congreſs met according to adjournment.

Beſides thoſe who met at the opening of the Congreſs, the following Members attended, from New-York, Mr. Jay, Mr. Wisner, Mr. Schuyler,

SCHUYLER, Mr. CLINTON, Mr. MORRIS, and Mr. R. R. LIVINGSTON; from Pennſylvania, Mr. WILSON; from Maryland, Mr. STONE and Mr. GOLDSBOROUGH.

Upon motion, *Agreed*, THAT the Secretary be allowed to employ Timothy Matlack as a clerk, he having firſt taken an oath or affirmation to keep ſecret the tranſactions of the Congreſs, that may be entruſted to him or may come to his knowledge.

THE city and county of New-York having, through the Delegates of that province, applied to Congreſs for advice, how to conduct themſelves with regard to the troops expected there, the Congreſs took the matter into conſideration. During their deliberations, it became neceſſary to take the opinion of the Congreſs by Colonies, upon which a queſtion aroſe, whether the Delegate from the pariſh of St. John's, in the Colony of Georgia, could be admitted to vote. After ſome debate on this queſtion, the Delegate from that pariſh aroſe, and after obſerving, that the preſent diſtreſsful ſituation of American affairs had induced a neceſſity of this Congreſs, which was compoſed of Delegates repreſenting whole Colonies; that as he did not repreſent a Colony, but only a part, he did not inſiſt on giving a vote as a Colony, but was contented to hear and aſſiſt in the debates, and to give his vote in all caſes, except when the ſentiments of the Congreſs were taken by Colonies.

THE

THE Congreſs then reſumed the conſideration of the matter referred to them; during the debate SAMUEL WARD, Eſq; one of the Delegates from Rhode-Iſland, appeared and produced his Credentials, which being read, were approved, and are as follows:

(L. S.) *By the Honorable the* General Aſſembly *of the Engliſh Colony of* Rhode-Iſland, *and* Providence Plantations, *in* New-England, *in* America.

To the Honorable STEPHEN HOPKINS, *Eſq*; *and the Honorable* SAMUEL WARD, *Eſq*;

Greeting,

WHEREAS the general Aſſembly of the Colony aforeſaid, have nominated and appointed you, the ſaid STEPHEN HOPKINS and SAMUEL WARD, to repreſent the people of this Colony in a General Congreſs of Repreſentatives from this and the other Colonies, to be holden in the city of Philadelphia, and there in behalf of this Colony, to meet and join with the Commiſſioners or Delegates from the other Colonies, in conſulting upon proper meaſures to obtain a repeal of the ſeveral acts of the Britiſh Parliament for levying taxes upon his Majeſty's ſubjects in America without their conſent, and upon proper meaſures, to eſtabliſh the Rights and Liberties of the Colonies upon a juſt and ſolid foundation, agreeable to the inſtructions given you by the General Aſſembly.

BY virtue of an Act of the General Aſſembly, I, HENRY WARD, Eſq; Secretary of the ſaid Colony,

Colony, have hereunto ſet my hand and affixed the ſeal of the ſaid Colony, this ſeventh day of May, A. D. 1775, and in the fifteenth year of the reign of his moſt ſacred Majeſty George the Third, by the grace of God, King of Great-Britain, &c.

(Signed) HENRY WARD.

THE matter under conſideration being reſumed, the Congreſs

Reſolved, THAT it be recommended, for the preſent, to the inhabitants of New-York, that if the troops, which are expected, ſhould arrive, the ſaid Colony act on the defenſive, ſo long as may be conſiſtent with their ſafety and ſecurity; that the troops be permitted to remain in the barracks, ſo long as they behave peaceably and quietly, but that they be not ſuffered to erect fortifications, or take any ſteps for cutting off the communication between the town and country, and that if they commit hoſtilities or invade private property, the inhabitants ſhould defend themſelves and their property, and repel force by force; that the warlike ſtores be removed from the town; that places of retreat, in caſe of neceſſity, be provided for the women and children of New-York; and that a ſufficient number of men be embodied, and kept in conſtant readineſs for protecting the inhabitants from inſult and injury.

Two memorials, one from Samuel Shoemaker, the other from James and Drinker, merchants of

of this city, reſpecting ſome cargoes purchaſed by them and intended for Newfoundland, but which are ſtopped by the Committee of this city, were laid before the Congreſs and read, and ordered to lie on the table.

Upon motion, Reſolved, THAT Mr. *Waſhington*, Mr. *Lynch*, Mr. *S. Adams*, and the Delegates from New-York, be a Committee to conſider what poſts are neceſſary to be occupied in the Colony of New-York, and that they be deſired to report as ſpeedily as poſſible.

Reſolved, THAT this Congreſs will to-morrow reſolve itſelf into a Committee of the whole, to take into conſideration the ſtate of America.

Adjourned to 9 o'clock to-morrow.

TUESDAY, *May* 16, 1775.

The Congreſs met according to adjournment.

A MEMORIAL from Robert and John Murray, of New-York, was laid before the Congreſs and read.

Ordered, To lie on the table.

AGREEABLE to the order of the day, the Congreſs reſolved itſelf into a Committee of the whole, to take into conſideration the ſtate of America, after ſome time ſpent therein, the Preſident reſumed the Chair, and Mr. *Tilghman* reported from the Committee, that they had taken the matter referred to them into conſideration,

tion, but not having come to any reſolution, deſired him to move for leave to ſit again.

Reſolved, THAT this Congreſs will to-morrow again reſolve itſelf into a Committee of the whole, to take into their farther conſideration the ſtate of America.

Adjourned till to-morrow at 12 o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, *May* 17, 1775.

THE Congreſs met according to adjournment, and the order of the day being poſtponed till to-morrow;

Upon motion, *Reſolved unanimouſly*, THAT all exportations to Quebec, Nova-Scotia, the iſland of St. John's, Newfoundland, Georgia, except the pariſh of St. John's, and to Eaſt and Weſt Florida, immediately ceaſe, and that no proviſion of any kind, or other neceſſaries be furniſhed to the Britiſh fiſheries on the American coaſts, until it be otherwiſe determined by the Congreſs.

Ordered, THAT this be publiſhed immediately.

Adjourned till to-morrow at 9 o'clock.

THURSDAY, *May* 18, 1775.

The Congreſs met according to adjournment.

THE Hon. STEPHEN HOPKIN, Eſq; from Rhode-Iſland, and PATRICK HENRY, Eſq; from Virginia, attended and took their ſeats in Congreſs.

Upon motion, *Reſolved*, THAT the rules of conduct to be obſerved in debating and determining queſtions, laid down by the laſt Congreſs, be adopted and obſerved by the preſent Congreſs.

THE Preſident laid before the Congreſs ſome important intelligence he received laſt night by expreſs, relative to the ſurprizing and taking of *Ticonderoga*, by a detachment from Maſſachuſetts-Bay and Connecticut, which was read.

Upon motion, *Agreed*, THAT Mr. Brown who brought the expreſs be called in: After he withdrew, the Congreſs taking into conſideration the letters and intelligence communicated to them,

Reſolved, WHEREAS there is indubitable evidence, that a deſign is formed by the Britiſh miniſtry, of making a cruel invaſion from the province of Quebec upon theſe Colonies, for the purpoſe of deſtroying our lives and liberties, and ſome ſteps have actually been taken to carry the ſaid deſign into execution; and whereas ſeveral inhabitants of the northern Colonies, reſiding in the vicinity of Ticonderoga, and immediately expoſed to incurſions, impelled by a juſt regard for the defence and preſervation of themſelves and their countrymen from ſuch imminent

minent dangers and calamities, have taken poſſeſſion of that poſt, in which was lodged a quantity of cannon and military ſtores, that would certainly have been uſed in the intended invaſion of theſe Colonies, this Congreſs earneſtly recommend it to the Committees of the cities and counties of New-York and Albany, immediately to cauſe the ſaid cannon and ſtores to be removed from Ticonderoga to the ſouth end of Lake George, and if neceſſary, to apply to the Colonies of New-Hampſhire, Maſſachuſetts-Bay and Connecticut, for ſuch an additional body of forces as will be ſufficient to eſtabliſh a ſtrong poſt at that place, and effectually to ſecure the ſaid cannon and ſtores, or ſo many of them as it may be judged proper to keep there---And that an exact inventory be taken of all ſuch cannon and ſtores, in order that they may be ſafely returned, when the reſtoration of the former harmony between Great-Britain and theſe Colonies, ſo ardently wiſhed for by the latter, ſhall render it prudent and conſiſtent with the over-ruling law of ſelf-preſervation.

Reſolved, THAT this Congreſs will, to-morrow, reſolve itſelf into a Committee of the whole, to take into their farther conſideration the ſtate of America.

Adjourned till to-morrow at 9 o'clock.

FRIDAY, *May* 19, 1775.

The Congreſs met according to adjournment.

THE Committee, appointed to conſider what poſts are neceſſary to be occupied in the Colony of New-York, and by what number of troops it will be proper they ſhould be guarded, brought in their report, which being read, was referred to the Committee of the whole.

AGREEABLE to the order of the day the Congreſs reſolved themſelves into a Committee of the whole, to take into conſideration the ſtate of America, and continued ſo to do from day to day till Wedneſday, 24th, on which day the Hon. Peyton Randolph, Preſident, being under a neceſſity of returning home, and having ſet out this morning early, the Chair was vacant, whereupon,

On motion, THE Hon. JOHN HANCOCK, Eſq; was unanimouſly choſen Preſident.

THE Congreſs then reſolved themſelves into a committee of the whole, to take into conſideration the ſtate of America, and repeated the ſame on the day following.

On FRIDAY, *May* 26, 1775.

THE Congreſs being met according to adjournment, one of the Delegates from New-Jerſey laid before them a minute from the journals of the Aſſembly of that Colony, together with a reſolution of the Commons of Great-Britain, which were read as follows:

NEW-

NEW-JERSEY, *Houſe of Aſſembly, May* 20, 1775.

" His Excellency having laid before the " Houſe a copy of the reſolution of the hono- " rable Houſe of Commons of Great-Britain, " of the 20th of February, 1775, containing " a plan, formed for the accommodation of the " unhappy differences between our parent State " and the Colonies, which plan, under the pre- " ſent circumſtances, this Houſe could not com- " ply with and adopt, and yet this Houſe being " deſirous of making uſe of all proper means " to effect a reconciliation, do recommend it to " their Delegates to lay the ſame plan before " the Continental Congreſs for their con- " ſideration."

A true copy from the Journal,

RICHARD SMITH, *Clerk of Aſſembly.*

Copy of a Reſolution of the Houſe of Commons, *February* 20, 1775.

" *RESOLVED, That when the Governor,* " *Council and Aſſembly, or General Court of any* " *of his Majeſty's provinces or Colonies in America,* " *ſhall propoſe to make proviſion according to the* " *condition, circumſtances and ſituations of ſuch* " *province or Colony, for contributing their propor-* " *tion for the common defence, (ſuch proportion* " *to be raiſed under the authority of the General* " *Court or General Aſſembly of ſuch province or* " *colony and diſpoſable by Parliament) and ſhall* " *engage to make proviſion alſo for the ſupport of*

" *the*

" *the civil government and the adminſtration of* " *juſtice in ſuch province or colony, it will be pro-* " *per, if ſuch propoſal ſhall be approved by his* " *Majeſty and the two houſes of Parliament, and* " *for ſo long as ſuch proviſion ſhall be made ac-* " *cordingly, to forbear, in reſpect of ſuch province* " *or colony, to levy any duty, tax, or aſſeſſment,* " *except only ſuch duties, as it may be expedient to* " *continue to levy or to impoſe for the regulation of* " *commerce, the neat produce of the duties laſt* " *mentioned, to be carried to the account of ſuch* " *province or colony reſpectively.*"

Ordered, THAT the above be referred to the Committee for taking into conſideration the ſtate of America.

THE Congreſs then reſolved itſelf into a Committee of the whole, to take into conſideration the ſtate of America, after ſome time ſpent therein the Preſident reſumed the Chair, and Mr. Ward reported from the Committee that they had come to ſome reſolutions which he was deſired to report, but not having finiſhed the buſineſs, deſired him to move for leave to ſit again.

THE report from the Committee being read, the Congreſs came into the following reſolutions.

Reſolved unanimouſly, THAT his Majeſty's moſt faithful ſubject in theſe colonies are reduced to a dangerous and critical ſituation, by the attempts of the Britiſh Miniſtry to carry into

into execution, by force of arms, ſeveral unconſtitutional and oppreſſive acts of the Britiſh Parliament for laying taxes in America; to enforce the collection of thoſe taxes, and for altering and changing the Conſtitution and internal police of ſome of theſe Colonies, in violation of the natural and civil rights of the coloniſts.

Hostilities being actually commenced in the Maſſachuſetts-Bay, by the Britiſh troops under the command of General Gage, and the lives of a number of the inhabitants of that Colony deſtroyed, the town of Boſton having not only been long occupied as a garriſoned town in an enemy's country, but the inhabitants thereof treated with a ſeverity and cruelty not to be juſtified even towards declared enemies; large re-inforcements too being ordered and ſoon expected, for the declared purpoſe of compelling theſe Colonies to ſubmit to the operation of the ſaid acts; that therefore, for the expreſs purpoſe of ſecuring and defending theſe Colonies, and preſerving them in ſafety againſt all attempts to carry the ſaid acts into execution by force of arms, theſe Colonies be immediately put into a ſtate of defence.

But, as we moſt ardently wiſh for a reſtoration of the harmony formerly ſubſiſting between our mother country and theſe Colonies, the interruption of which muſt, at all events, be exceedingly injurious to both countries, that with a ſincere deſign of contributing by all the means in our power, not incompatible with a

juſt

juſt regard for the undoubted rights and true intereſts of theſe Colonies, to the promotion of this moſt deſireable reconciliation, an humble and dutiful petition be preſented to his Majeſty.

Reſolved, THAT meaſures be entered into for opening a negotiation, in order to accommodate the unhappy diſputes ſubſiſting between Great-Britain and theſe Colonies, and that this be made a part of the petition to the King.

Reſolved unanimouſly, THAT the militia of New-York be armed and trained, and in conſtant readineſs to act at a moment's warning; and that a number of men be immediately embodied and kept in that city, and ſo diſpoſed of as to give protection to the inhabitants, in caſe any inſult ſhould be offered by the troops, that may land there, and to prevent any attempts that may be made to gain poſſeſſion of the city, and interrupt its intercourſe with the country.

Reſolved unanimouſly, THAT it be recommended to the provincial Convention at New-York, to perſevere the more vigouroufly in preparing for their defence, as it is very uncertain whether the earneſt endeavours of the Congreſs, to accommodate the unhappy differences between Great Britain and the Colonies, by conciliatory meaſures, will be ſucceſsful.

Upon motion, agreed, THAT Mr. *Jay*, Mr. *S. Adams*, and Mr. *Deane*, be a Committee to prepare and bring in a letter to the people of Canada.

Reſolved,

Resolved, THAT this Congress will to-morrow again resolve itself into a Committee of the whole, to take into their farther consideration the state of America.

Adjourned till to-morrow at 9 o'clock.

SATURDAY, May 27, 1775.

THE Congress met according to adjournment.

THE President laid before the Congress a letter from the Convention of New-Jersey, which was read and referred to the Committee of the whole.

INFORMATION being given, that there is a gentleman in town who can give a full and just account of the state of affairs in Canada.

Ordered, THAT he be introduced, which was done.

THE Committee appointed to draught a letter to the inhabitants of Canada, brought in the letter, which was read, and after some debate, re-committed to the same Committee.

Upon motion, *Agreed*, THAT Mr. *Washington*, Mr. *Schuyler*, Mr. *Mifflin*, Mr. *Deane*, Mr. *Morris*, and Mr. *S. Adams*, be a Committee, to consider on ways and means to supply these Colonies with ammunition and military stores.

Upon motion, THE memorial of Robert Murray and John Murray, "desiring to be reſtored to their former ſituation with reſpect to their commercial priviledges," was taken into conſideration, and after ſome time ſpent thereon.

Reſolved, THAT where any perſon hath been or ſhall be adjudged by a Committee, to have violated the Continental Aſſociation, and ſuch offender ſhall ſatisfy the Convention of the Colony, where the offence was or ſhall be committed, or the Committee of the pariſh of St. John's, in the colony of Georgia, if the offence be committed there, of his contrition for his offence, and ſincere reſolution to conform to the Aſſociation for the future, the ſaid Convention or Committee, of the pariſh of St. John's aforeſaid, may ſettle the terms; upon which he may be reſtored to the favour and forgiveneſs of the public, and that the terms be publiſhed.

Ordered, THAT this be made public.

Reſolved, THAT the order of the day be poſtponed till monday.

Adjourned till Monday at 9 o'clock.

MONDAY, *May* 29, 1775.

The Congreſs met according to adjournment.

THE Committee to whom the letter to the inhabitants of Canada was re-committed, brought in the ſame, was read and approved and is as follows:

To

To the oppreſſed INHABITANTS *of* CANADA.

FRIENDS and COUNTRYMEN,

ALARMED by the deſigns of an arbitrary Miniſtry to extirpate the rights and liberties of all America, a ſenſe of common danger conſpired with the dictates of humanity, in urging us to call your attention, by our late Addreſs, to this very important object.

SINCE the concluſion of the late war, we have been happy in conſidering you as fellow ſubjects, and from the commencement of the preſent plan for ſubjugating the Continent, we have viewed you as fellow ſufferers with us. As we were both entitled by the bounty of an indulgent Creator to freedom, and being both devoted, by the cruel edicts of a deſpotic Adminiſtration, to common ruin, we perceived the fate of the proteſtant and catholic Colonies to be ſtrongly linked together, and therefore invited you to join with us in reſolving to be free, and in rejecting, with diſdain, the fetters of ſlavery, however artfully poliſhed.

WE moſt ſincerely condole with you on the arrival of that day, in the courſe of which, the ſun could not ſhine on a ſingle free-man in all your extenſive dominion Be aſſured that your unmerited degradation has engaged the moſt unfeigned pity of your ſiſter Colonies; and we flatter ourſelves you will not, by tamely bearing the yoke, ſuffer that pity to be ſupplanted by contempt.

When hardy attempts are made to deprive men of rights beſtowed by the Almighty, when avenues are cut through the moſt ſolemn compacts for the admiſſion of deſpotiſm, when the plighted faith of government ceaſes to give ſecurity to loyal and dutiful ſubjects; and when the inſidious ſtratagems and manœuvres of peace become more terrible than the ſanguinary operations of war, it is high time for them to aſſert thoſe rights, and, with honeſt indignation, oppoſe the torrent of oppreſſion ruſhing in upon them.

By the introduction of your preſent form of government, or rather preſent form of tyranny, you and your wives and your children are made ſlaves. You have nothing that you can call your own, and all the fruits of your labour and induſtry may be taken from you, whenever an avaricious Governor and a rapacious Council may incline to demand them. You are liable by their edicts to be tranſported into foreign countries to fight battles, in which you have no intereſt, and to ſpill your blood in conflicts from which neither honor nor emolument can be derived: Nay, the enjoyment of your very religion, on the preſent ſyſtem, depends on a legiſlature, in which you have no ſhare, and over which you have no controul, and your Prieſts are expoſed to expulſion, baniſhment and ruin, when ever their wealth and poſſeſſions furniſh ſufficient temptation. They cannot be ſure that a virtuous Prince will always fill the Throne, and ſhould a wicked or a careleſs King concur with a wicked Miniſtry in extracting the

treaſure

treaſure and ſtrength of your country, it is impoſſible to conceive to what variety and to what extremes of wretchedneſs you may, under the preſent eſtabliſhment, be reduced.

We are informed you have already been called upon to waſte your lives in a conteſt with us. Should you, by complying in this inſtance, aſſent to your new eſtabliſhment, and a war break out with France, your wealth and your ſons may be ſent to periſh in expeditions againſt their iſlands in the Weſt-Indies.

It cannot be preſumed that theſe conſiderations will have no weight with you, or that you are ſo loſt to all ſenſe of honor. We can never believe that the preſent race of Canadians are ſo degenerated as to profeſs neither the ſpirit, the gallantry, or the courage of their anceſtors. You certainly will not permit the infamy and diſgrace of ſuch puſillanimity to reſt on your own heads, and the conſequences of it on your children forever.

We for our parts are determined to live free or not at all, and are reſolved that poſterity ſhall never reproach us with having brought ſlaves into the world.

Permit us again to repeat that we are your friends, not your enemies, and be not impoſed upon by thoſe, who may endeavour to create animoſities. The taking of the fort and military ſtores at Ticonderoga and Crown Point, and the armed veſſels on the lake, was dictated

by

by the great law of Self preſervation. They were intended to annoy us, and to cut off that friendly intercourſe and communication, which has hitherto ſubſiſted between you and us. We hope it has given you no uneaſineſs, and you may rely on our aſſurance, that theſe Colonies will purſue no meaſures whatever, but ſuch as friendſhip and a regard for our mutual ſafety and intereſt may ſuggeſt.

As our concern for your welfare entitles us to your friendſhip, we preſume you will not, by doing us injury, reduce us to the diſagreeable neceſſity of treating you as enemies.

We yet entertain hopes of your uniting with us in the defence of our common liberty, and there is yet reaſon to believe, that ſhould we join in imploring the attention of our Sovereign, to the unmerited and unparalleled oppreſſions of his American ſubjects, he will at length be undeceived, and forbid a licentious Miniſtry any longer to riot in the ruins of the rights of mankind.

Ordered, That the above letter be ſigned by the Preſident.

Ordered, That Mr. *Dickinſon* and Mr *Mifflin* be a Committee to get the letter tranſlated into the French language, and to have one thouſand copies of it, ſo tranſlated, printed, in order to be ſent to Canada and diſperſed among the inhabitants there.

Upon

Upon motion, Reſolved, THAT no proviſions or neceſſaries of any kind be exported to the Iſland of Nantucket, except from the Colony of Maſſachuſett's Bay, the Convention of which Colony is deſired to take meaſures for effectually providing the ſaid Iſland, upon their application to purchaſe the ſame, with as much proviſion, as ſhall be neceſſary for its internal uſe and no more.

THE Congreſs deeming it of great importance to North America, that the Britiſh fiſhery ſhould not be furniſhed with proviſions from the Continent through Nantucket, earneſtly recommend a vigilant execution of this reſolve to all Committees.

Ordered, THAT the above reſolve be immediately publiſhed.

As the preſent critical ſituation of the Colonies renders it highly neceſſary that ways and means ſhould be deviſed for the ſpeedy and ſecure conveyance of intelligence from one end of the Continent to the other,

Reſolved, THAT Mr. *Franklin*, Mr. *Lynch*, Mr. *Lee*, Mr. *Willing*, Mr. *S. Adams*, and Mr. *P. Livingſton*, be a Committee to conſider the beſt means of eſtabliſhing poſts for conveying letters and intelligence through this continent

Reſolved, THAT the order of the day be poſtponed till to morrow.

Adjourned till to-morrow at 9 o'clock.

TUESDAY

TUESDAY, *May* 30, 1775.

The Congreſs met according to adjournment.

A MEMBER informed the Congreſs, that a Gentleman juſt arrived from London, had bro't with him a paper, which he ſays he received from Lord North, and which was written, at the deſire of his Lordſhip, by Mr. Gray Cooper, Under-Secretary to the Treaſury, and as the Gentleman underſtood it to be his Lordſhip's deſire that it ſhould be communicated to the Congreſs, for that purpoſe he had put it into his hands. The Member farther obſerved, that he had ſhewn the paper to a Member near him, who was well acquainted with the hand writing of Mr. Cooper, and that he verily believes the paper was written by Mr. Cooper.

THE paper being read, is as follows:

THAT it is earneſtly hoped by all the real friends of the Americans, that the terms expreſſed in the Reſolution of the 20*th of February laſt, will be accepted by all the Colonies, who have th leaſt affection for their King and country, or a juſt ſenſe of their own intereſt.*

That theſe terms are honorable for Great-Britain and ſafe for the Colonies.

That if the Colonies are not blinded by faction, theſe terms will remove every grievance relative to taxation, and be the baſis of a compact between the Colonies and the Mother-Country.

That

That the people in America ought, on every conſideration, to be ſatisfied with them.

That no further relaxation can be admitted.

The temper and ſpirit of the nation are ſo much againſt conceſſions, that if it were the intention of Adminiſtration, they could not carry the queſtion.

But Adminiſtration have no ſuch intention, as they are fully and firmly perſuaded, that further conceſſions would be injurious to the Colonies as well as to Great-Britain.

That there is not the leaſt probability of a change of Adminiſtration.

That they are perfectly united in opinion, and determined to purſue the moſt effectual meaſures and to uſe the whole force of the kingdom, if it be found neceſſary, to reduce the rebellious and refractory Provinces and Colonies.

There is ſo great a ſpirit in the nation againſt the Congreſs, that the people will bear the temporary diſtreſſes of a ſtoppage of the American trade.

They may depend on this to be true.

Ordered, To lie on the table.

AGREEABE to the order of the day, the Congreſs reſolved itſelf into a Committee of the whole, to take into conſideration the ſtate of America, and continued ſo to do the day follow-

ing, when after ſome time, the Preſident reſumed the Chair, and Mr. *Ward* reported from the Committee, that they had proceeded in the buſineſs, but not having come to a concluſion, deſired him to move for leave to ſit again.

Reſolved, THAT this Congreſs will to-morrow again reſolve itſelf into a Committee of the whole to take into their farther conſideration the ſtate of America.

A LETTER from Col. Arnold, dated Crown-Point, May 23, 1775, was laid before the Congreſs, informing that he had certain intelligence, that "on the 19th there were then 400 regulars at St. John's, making all poſſible preparation to croſs the lake, and expected to be joined by a number of Indians, with a deſign of re-taking Crown-Point and Ticonderoga," and earneſtly calling for a reinforcement and ſupplies. This letter being taken into conſideration,

Reſolved, THAT the Governor of Connecticut be requeſted immediately to ſend a ſtrong reinforcement to the garriſons of Crown-Point and Ticonderoga, and that ſo many of the cannon and other ſtores be retained as may be neceſſary for the immediate defence of thoſe poſts, until further order from this Congreſs, and that the Provincial Convention of New-York be informed of this Reſolve, and deſired to furniſh thoſe troops with proviſions and other neceſſary ſtores, and to take effectual care that a ſufficient number of Batteaus be immediately provided for the lakes.

Ordered,

Ordered, THAT the above Reſolve be immediately tranſmitted in a letter by the Preſident to Governor Trumbull and the Convention at New-York.

Ordered, THAT the Preſident in his letter acquaint Governor Trumbull that it is the deſire of the Congreſs that he ſhould appoint a perſon, in whom he can confide, to command the forces at Crown Point and Ticonderoga.

Adjourned till to-morrow at 9 o'clock.

THURSDAY, *June* 1, 1775.

The Congreſs met according to adjournment.

THE Committee appointed to conſider ways and means to ſupply theſe Colonies with ammunition and military ſtores, brought in their report, which was read and referred to the Committee of the whole.

Upon motion, *Reſolved*, THAT it be recommended to the government of Connecticut, or the General of the forces of that Colony, to appoint Commiſſaries to receive at Albany and forward the ſupplies of proviſions, for the forces on Lake Champlain, from the Provincial Convention of New-York, and that the ſaid Convention uſe their utmoſt endeavours in facilitating and aiding the tranſportation thereof from thence to where the ſaid Commiſſaries may direct.

As this Congreſs has nothing more in view than the defence of theſe Colonies.

Reſolved, THAT no expedition or incurſion ought to be undertaken or made, by any Colony or body of Coloniſts, againſt or into Canada; and that this Reſolve be immediately tranſmitted to the commander of the forces at Ticonderoga.

Ordered THAT the above Reſolve be tranſlated into the French language, and tranſmitted, with the letter, to the inhabitants of Canada.

Ordered, THAT the Preſident tranſmit a copy of the above to New-York, and the other Colonies bordering on Canada.

A PETITION from the Committee repreſenting the people in that part of Augusta county, in the Colony of Virginia, on the weſt ſide of the Allegheny Mountain, was laid before the Congreſs and read, intimating "fears of a rupture with the Indians on account of Lord Dunmore's conduct," and deſiring "Commiſſioners from the Colony of Virginia and province of Pennſylvania, to attend a meeting of the Indians at Pittſburg, on behalf of theſe Colonies."

Ordered, THAT the above be referred to the Delegates of the Colonies of Virginia and Pennſylvania.

THE Congreſs then, agreeable to the order of the day, reſolved itſelf into a Committee of the

the whole, to take into conſideration the ſtate of America, and after ſome time ſpent therein the Preſident reſumed the Chair, and Mr. Ward reported from the Committe, that they had taken the matters referred to them into conſideration, but not having yet come to a concluſion, deſired him to move for leave to ſit again.

Reſolved, THAT this Congreſs will to-morrow again reſolve itſelf into a Committee of the whole, to take into their farther conſideration the ſtate of America.

Adjourned till to morrow at 9 o'clock.

FRIDAY, *June* 2, 1775.

The Congreſs met according to adjournment.

THE Preſident laid before the Congreſs a letter from the Provincial Convention of Maſſachuſett's-Bay, dated May 16, which was read, ſetting forth the difficulties they labour under for want of a regular form of government, and as they and the other Colonies are now compelled to raiſe an army to defend themſelves from the butcheries and devaſtations of their implacable enemies, which renders it ſtill more neceſſary to have a regular eſtabliſhed government, requeſting the Congreſs to favour them with "explicit advice reſpecting the taking up and exerciſing the powers of civil government," and declaring their readineſs to "ſubmit to ſuch a general plan as the Congreſs may direct for the

the Colonies, or make it their great ſtudy to eſtabliſh ſuch a form of government there, as ſhall not only promote their advantage, but the union and intereſt of all America."

Ordered, To lie on the table for farther conſideration.

Doctor Benjamin Church being directed by the Convention of Maſſachuſett's-Bay, to confer with the Congreſs reſpecting ſuch other matters, as may be neceſſary to the defence of that Colony and particularly the ſtate of the army therein.

Ordered, That he be introduced.

After he withdrew, an expreſs arriving with diſpatches from Maſſachuſett's-Bay, the Preſident laid before the Congreſs letters from the Conventions of that Colony and New-Hampſhire, alſo from Governor Trumbull, which were read.

Upon motion, *Reſolved*, That no bill of exchange, draught or order of any officer in the army or navy, their agents or contractors be received, or negotiated, or any money ſupplied to them by any perſon in America.

That no proviſions or neceſſaries of any kind be furniſhed or ſupplied to or for the uſe of the Britiſh army or navy, in the colony of Maſſachuſetts-Bay.

That no veſſel employed in tranſporting Britiſh troops to America, or from one part of North-

North-America to another, or warlike ſtores or proviſions for ſaid troops be freighted or furniſhed with proviſions or any neceſſaries, until further orders from this Congreſs.

Ordered, That the above reſolves be immediately publiſhed.

The order of the day being poſtponed, the Congreſs adjourned till to-morrow at 9 o'clock.

Saturday, *June* 3, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

A Letter from the Convention of New-York, together with ſundry letters and papers encloſed, from Albany, were laid before the Congreſs and read.

Ordered, to lie on the table.

The letter from the Convention of Maſſachuſetts, dated the 16th May, being again read.

Reſolved, That a Committee of five perſons be choſen to conſider the ſame, and report what in their opinion is the proper advice to be given to that Convention.

The following perſons were choſen by ballot, to compoſe that Committee, viz. Mr. *J. Rutledge*, Mr. *Johnſon*, Mr. *Jay*, Mr. *Wilſon*, and Mr. *Lee*.

Reſolved,

Reſolved, THAT a Committee of five be appointed, to draught a petition to the King.

THAT another Committee of three be appointed to prepare an addreſs to the inhabitants of Great-Britain.

THAT another Committee of four be appointed to prepare an addreſs to the people of Ireland.

THAT another Committee of three be appointed to bring in the draught of a letter to the inhabitants of Jamaica.

THAT another Committee of five be appointed to bring in an eſtimate of the money neceſſary to be raiſed.

THE Congreſs then proceeded to chuſe by ballot the ſeveral Committees, when Mr. *Dickinſon*, Mr. *Johnſon*, Mr. *J. Rutledge*, Mr. *Jay*, and Mr. *Franklin*, were elected to compoſe the firſt; Mr. *Lee*, Mr. *R. R. Livingſton*, and Mr. *Pendleton*, for the ſecond; Mr. *Duane*, Mr. *W. Livingſton*, Mr. *S. Adams*, and Mr. *J. Adams*, for the third; Mr. *Hooper*, Mr. *Wilſon*, and Mr. *Lynch*, for the fourth; and Mr. *Waſhington*, Mr. *Schuyler* Mr. *Deane*, Mr. *Cuſhing*, and Mr. *Hewes*, for the fifth.

Adjourned till Monday at 9 o'clock.

ON Monday and Tueſday the Congreſs met and adjourned, to give the Committees time to bring in their report.

WEDNESDAY,

WEDNESDAY, *June* 7, 1775.

The Congreſs met according to adjournment.

THE Committee appointed to make an eſtimate of the money neceſſary to be raiſed brought in their report, which was read and referred to the Committee of the whole.

On motion, *Reſolved*, THAT Thurſday, the 20th of July next, be obſerved throughout the Twelve United Colonies as a day of humiliation, faſting and prayer, and that Mr. *Hooper*, Mr. *J. Adams*, and Mr. *Paine* be a Committee to bring in a Reſolve for that purpoſe.

THE Committee, appointed to prepare advice in anſwer to the letter from the Convention of Maſſachuſett's-Bay, brought in their report, which was read and ordered to lie on the table for conſideration.

AGREEABLE to the order of the day, the Congreſs reſolved themſelves into a Committee of the whole, to take into their farther conſideration the ſtate of America; after ſome time ſpent thereon, the Preſident reſumed the Chair, and Mr. *Ward* reported that the Committee had proceeded in the buſineſs referred to them, but not having come to a concluſion, deſired him to move for leave to ſit again.

Reſolved, THAT this Congreſs will to-morrow again reſolve themſelves into a Committee of the whole, to take into their farther conſideration

the ſtate of America. And that this be a ſtanding order till the buſineſs is compleated.

Adjourned till to-morrow at 9 o'clock.

THURSDAY, *June* 8, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

THE Congreſs being informed that a Major Skene, with ſome other Officers, who arrived laſt evening in a veſſel from London, were, with their papers, in the cuſtody of the troops of this city; that the ſaid Skene has lately been appointed Governor of the forts of Ticonderoga and Crown-Point; that one of the Officers with him is a Lieutenant in the regulars now in the province of Quebec; and moreover, that the ſaid Skene had declared, that he has authority to raiſe a regiment in America; from all this, apprehending that the ſaid Skene is a dangerous partizan of Adminiſtration, and that his papers may contain intelligence of miniſterial deſigns againſt America, very important to be known.

Reſolved, THAT a Committee be appointed to examine the papers of the ſaid Skene and Lieutenant, in their preſence.

THAT the Committee conſiſt of Mr. *J. Adams*, Mr. *Deane*, and Mr. *Miffliin*.

THAT the ſaid Committee be upon honor to conceal whatever of a private nature may come

to

to their knowledge by such examination; and that they communicate to this Congress what they shall discover relative to the present dispute between Great Britain and America.

The remainder of the day being spent in a Committee of the whole on the state of America, the Congress adjourned till to-morrow at 9 o'clock.

Friday, *June* 9, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

The report of the Committee on the letter from the Convention of Massachusett's-Bay being again read, the Congress came to the following Resolution:

Resolved, That no obedience being due to the Act of Parliament for altering the Charter of the Colony of Massachusett's-Bay, nor to a Governor or Lieutenant Governor, who will not observe the directions of, but endeavour to subvert that Charter, the Governor and Lieutenant Governor of that Colony are to be considered as absent, and their offices vacant; and as there is no Council there, and the inconveniences arising from the suspension of the powers of government are intollerable, especially at a time when Gen. Gage hath actually levied war and is carrying on hostilities against his Majesty's peaceable and loyal subjects of that Colony; that, in order to conform as near as may be to the spirit and sub-

ſtance of the Charter, it be recommended to the Provincial Convention to write letters to the inhabitants of the ſeveral places, which are intituled to repreſentation in Aſſembly, requeſting them to chuſe ſuch repreſentatives, and that the Aſſembly, when choſen, do elect Councellors; and that ſuch Aſſembly or Council exerciſe the powers of Government, until a Governor of his Majeſty's appointment will conſent to govern the Colony according to its Charter.

Ordered, THAT the Preſident tranſmit a copy of the above to the Convention of Maſſachuſetts-Bay.

Adjourned till to-morrow at 9 o'clock.

SATURDAY, *June* 10, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

SUNDRY letters from Maſſachuſett's-Bay, Ticonderoga, Crown-Point, &c. being laid before the Congreſs, were read, and the ſame being taken into conſideration, the Congreſs came to the following Reſolutions:

Reſolved, THAT it be recommended to the ſeveral towns and diſtricts in the Colonies of Maſſachuſett's-Bay, New-Hampſhire, Rhode-Iſland and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New-York, and the eaſtern diviſion of New-Jerſey, to collect all the Salt-Petre and Brimſtone in their ſeveral towns and diſtricts, and

tranſmit

tranſmit the the ſame, with all poſſible diſpatch, to the Provincial Convention at New-York.

That it be recommended to the Provincial Convention of the Colony of New-York, to have the Powder-Mills in that Colony put into ſuch a condition, as immediately to manufacture into Powder, for the uſe of the continent, whatever materials may be procured in the manner above directed.

That it be recommended to the Committees of the weſtern diviſion of New-Jerſey, and of the Colonies of Pennſylvania, Lower counties on Delaware and Maryland, that they, without delay, collect the Salt-Petre and Sulphur in their reſpective Colonies, and tranſmit the ſame to the Committee for the city and liberties of Philadelphia, to the end that thoſe articles may be immediately manufactured into Gun-Powder for the uſe of the continent.

That it be recommended to the Conventions and Committees of the Colonies of Virginia, North-Carolina and South-Carolina, that they, without delay, collect the Salt-Petre and Sulphur in their reſpective Colonies, and procure theſe articles to be manufactured as ſoon as poſſible into Gun-Powder for the uſe of the continent.

That it be recommended to the ſeveral inhabitants of the United Colonies, who are poſſeſſed of Salt-Petre and Sulphur for their own uſe, to diſpoſe of them for the purpoſe of manufacturing Gun-Powder.

That

THAT the Salt-Petre and Sulphur collected in conſequence of the above reſolves of Congreſs, be paid for out of the continental fund.

THAT Mr. *Paine*, Mr. *Lee*, Mr. *Franklin*, Mr. *Schuyler*, and Mr. *Johnſon*, be a Committee to deviſe ways and means to introduce the manufacture of Salt-Petre in theſe Colonies.

THE Committee for examining Governor Skene's letters, &c. having communicated to Congreſs what they found relative to the diſpute between Great-Britain and theſe Colonies.

Upon motion, Reſolved, THAT Governor Philip Skene, Lieutenant Patrick Moncrieff, and Mr. Lundy, be releaſed from their preſent confinement, and permitted to go at large any where within eight miles of the city between Delaware and Schuylkil, on their parole of honor not to paſs thoſe limits, and that they will hold no correſpondence with any perſon whatſoever, on any political ſubject.

THAT Mr. *Gadſden* be added to the Committee for examining Governor Skene's papers, and that ſaid Committee have it in charge to execute the above reſolve.

Adjourned till Monday at 9 o'clock.

MONDAY,

MONDAY, *June* 12, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

THE Committee appointed to prepare a reſolution for a Faſt, brought in their report, which being read, was agreed to as follows:

As the Great Governor of the World, by his ſupreme and univerſal Providence, not only conducts the courſe of nature with unerring wiſdom and rectitude, but frequently influences the minds of men to ſerve the wiſe and gracious purpoſes of his providential Government, and it being at all times our indiſpenſible duty devoutly to acknowledge his ſuperintending Providence, eſpecially in times of impending danger and public calamity, to reverence and adore his immutable juſtice, as well as to implore his merciful interpoſition for our deliverance.

THIS Congreſs, therefore, conſidering the preſent critical, alarming and calamitous ſtate of theſe Colonies, do earneſtly recommend that Thurſday, the 20th day of July next, be obſerved by the inhabitants of all the Engliſh Colonies on this continent, as a day of public Humiliation, Faſting and Prayer; that we may, with united hearts and voices, unfeignedly confeſs and deplore our many ſins; and offer up our joint ſupplications to the all-wiſe, omnipotent and merciful diſpoſer of all events, humbly beſeeching him to forgive our iniquities, to remove our preſent calamities, to avert thoſe deſolating judgments, with which we are threatened, and

to

to bleſs our rightful Sovereign King George the Third, and inſpire him with wiſdom to diſcern and purſue the true intereſt of his ſubjects, that a ſpeedy end may be put to the civil diſcord between Great-Britain and the American Colonies without further effuſion of blood: And that the Britiſh nation may be influenced *to regard the things that belong to her peace, before they are hid from her eyes:* That theſe Colonies may ever be under the care and protection of a kind Providence, and be proſpered in all their intereſts: That the divine bleſſing may deſcend and reſt upon all our civil rulers, and upon the repreſentatives of the people in their ſeveral Aſſemblies and Conventions, that they may be directed to wiſe and effectual meaſures for preſerving the union and ſecuring the juſt rights and privileges of the Colonies: That virtue and true religion may revive and flouriſh throughout our land: And that all America may ſoon behold a gracious interpoſition of Heaven for the redreſs of her many grievances, the reſtoration of her invaded rights, a reconciliation with the parent ſtate, on terms conſtitutional and honorable to both: And that her civil and religious privileges may be ſecured to the lateſt poſterity.

And it is recommended to Chriſtians of all denominations to aſſemble for public worſhip, and to abſtain from ſervile labour and recreation on ſaid day.

Ordered, That a copy of the above be ſigned by the Preſident, and atteſted by the Secretary, and publiſhed in the new-papers and in hand-bills.

The

THE Congreſs then reſoved itſelf into a Committee of the whole, to take into conſideration the ways and means of raiſing money, and having ſpent thereon the remainder of the day and the day following, adjourned till Wedneſday at 9 o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, *June* 14, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

AGREEABLE to the ſtanding order of the day, the Congreſs reſolved itſelf into a Committee of the whole, to take into conſideration the ſtate of America, and after ſome time ſpent thereon, the Preſident reſumed the Chair, and Mr. *Ward* reported that the Committee had come to certain reſolutions, which he was ordered to report, but not having come to a concluſion, they deſired him to move for leave to ſit again.

THE Reſolutions being read were agreed to as follows:

Reſolved, THAT ſix companies of expert rifle men be immediately raiſed in Pennſylvania, two in Maryland, and two in Virginia; that each company conſiſt of a Captain, three Lieutenants, four Serjeants, four Corporals, a Drummer or trumpeter, and ſixty-eight privates.

THAT each company, as ſoon as compleated, march and join the army near Boſton, to be

there employed as Light Infantry, under the command of the chief officer in that army.

THAT the pay of the officers and privates be as follows, viz. a captain twenty dollars per month; a lieutenant thirteen dollars and one-third of a dollar per month; a ſergeant eight dollars per month; a corporal ſeven dollars and one third of a dollar per month; a drummer, or trumpeter the ſame; privates ſix dollars and two thirds of a dollar per month; to find their own arms and cloaths.

THAT the form of the inliſtment be in the following words:

I have this day voluntarily inliſted myſelf as a ſoldier in the American Continental Army for one year, unleſs ſooner diſcharged: And I do bind myſelf to conform in all inſtances to ſuch rules and regulations, as are or ſhall be eſtabliſhed for the government of the ſaid army.

Upon motion, Reſolved, THAT a Committee of five be appointed to prepare Rules and Regulations for the government of the army.

THE following perſons were choſen to compoſe that Committee, Mr. *Waſhington*, Mr. *Schuyler*, Mr. *Deane*, Mr. *Cuſhing*, and Mr. *Hewes*.

A LETTER from the Convention of New-York, dated 10th inſtant, reſpecting a veſſel which is ſtopped there, on ſuſpicion of having on board proviſions for the army and navy at Boſton,

Boſton, was read and referred to the Delegates of Maſſachuſetts-Bay, Connecticut, and New-York.

Reſolved, THAT this Congreſs will to-morrow again reſolve itſelf into a Committee of the whole, to take into farther conſideration the ways and means of raiſing money and the ſtate of America. This to be a ſtanding order, until the buſineſs is compleated.

Adjourned till to-morrow at 9 o'clock

THURSDAY, *June* 15, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

THE Committee, to whom the letter from the Convention of New-York was referred, brought in their report, which being read,

Reſolved, THAT the thanks of this Congreſs be given to the Convention of New-York, for their vigilance in the caſe of Captain Coffin's veſſel, and that it be recommended to them to let the veſſel be unloaded, and the cargo lately ſtored, unleſs ſtrong ſuſpicions concerning the deſtination of it ſhall be removed.

Ordered, THAT the above be tranſmitted by the preſident, in a letter to the Chairman of the Convention of New-York.

AGREEABLE to order the Congreſs reſolved itſelf into a Committee of the whole, and after

ſome time the Preſident reſumed the chair, and Mr. *Ward* reported, that the Committee had come to ſome farther reſolutions, which he was ordered to report.

THE report of the Committee being read and conſidered,

Reſolved, THAT a General be appointed to command all the Continental Forces, raiſed or to be raiſed for the defence of American liberty.

THAT five hundred dollars per month be allowed for the pay and expences of the General.

THE Congreſs then proceeded to the choice of a General by ballot, and GEORGE WASHINGTON, Eſq; was unanimouſly elected.

Adjourned till to-morrow at 8 o'clock.

FRIDAY, *June* 16, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

THE Preſident informed Col. Waſhington that the Congreſs had yeſterday unanimouſly made choice of him to be General and Commander in Chief of the American forces, and requeſted he would accept of that employment; to which Col. Waſhington ſtanding in his place anſwered:

Mr.

Mr. President,

" THOUGH I am truly ſenſible of the high honor done me in this appointment, yet, I feel great diſtreſs from a conſciouſneſs, that my abilities and military experience may not be equal to the extenſive and important truſt: However, as the Congreſs deſire it, I will enter upon the momentous duty, and exert every power I poſſeſs in their ſervice and for ſupport of the glorious cauſe. I beg they will accept my moſt cordial thanks for this diſtinguiſhed teſtimony of their approbation.

" BUT, leſt ſome unlucky event ſhould happen unfavourable to my reputation, I beg it may be remembered by every Gentleman in the room, that I this day declare with the utmoſt ſincerity, I do not think myſelf equal to the command I am honored with.

" As to pay, Sir, I beg leave to aſſure the Congreſs, that as no pecuniary conſideration could have tempted me to accept this arduous employment, at the expence of my domeſtic eaſe and happineſs, I do not wiſh to make any profit from it. I will keep an exact account of my expences. Thoſe I doubt not they will diſcharge, and that is all I deſire."

Reſolved, THAT a Committee be appointed to draught a Commiſſion and Inſtructions for the General.

THE perſons choſen to compoſe the Committee were Mr. *Lee*, Mr. *E. Rutledge* and Mr. *Adams*.

THE

THE papers tranſmitted from the Convention of New-York being read,

Reſolved, THAT the ſame be referred to a Committee of five, and that they report what ſteps, in their opinion, are neceſſary to be taken for ſecuring and preſerving the friendſhip of the Indian nations.

THE following perſons choſen for this Committee, viz. Mr. *Schuyler*, Mr. *Henry*, Mr. *Duane*, Mr. *Wilſon* and Mr. *P. Livingſton*.

THE Congreſs then reſumed the conſideration of the report from the Committee of the whole, and came to the following Reſolutions.

Reſolved, THAT two Major-Generals be appointed for the American Army.

THAT the pay of each of the Major-Generals be *one hundred* and *ſixty ſix Dollars* per month.

THAT when any of theſe act in a ſeparate department, he be allowed for his pay and expences *three hundred* and *thirty-two Dollars* per month.

THAT there be eight Brigadiers-General.

THAT the pay of each of the Brigadiers-General be *one hundred* and *twenty five Dollars* per month.

THAT there be one Adjutant-General.

THAT

THAT his pay be *one hundred* and *twenty-five Dollars* per month.

THAT there be one Commiſſary-General of ſtores and proviſions.

THAT his pay be *eighty Dollars* per month.

THAT there be one Quarter-Maſter-General for the Grand Army, and one Deputy under him for the ſeparate Army.

THAT the pay of the Quarter Maſter-General be *eighty Dollars* per month, and that of the Deputy *forty Dollars* per month.

THAT there be one Pay Maſter General, and a Deputy under him for the army in a ſeparate department; that the pay for the Pay-Maſter-General himſelf be *one hundred Dollars* per month, and for the Deputy Pay-Maſter under him *fifty Dollars* per month.

THAT there be one Chief Engineer at the Grand Army, and that his pay be *ſixty Dollars* per month.

THAT two Aſſiſtants be employed under him, and that the pay of each of them be *twenty Dollars* per month.

THAT there be one Chief Engineer for the Army in a ſeparate department, and two Aſſiſtants under him; that the pay of the Chief Engineer be *ſixty Dollars* per month, and the pay of the Aſſiſtants each *twenty Dollars* per month.

THAT

THAT there be three Aids de Camp; and that their pay be *thirty-three Dollars* per month each.

THAT there be a Secretary to the General; and that his pay be *ſixty ſix Dollars* per month.

THAT there be a Secretary to the Major-General acting in a ſeparate department; and that his pay be *thirty three Dollars* per month.

THAT there be a Commiſſary of the Muſters

A LETTER from the Convention of New-York, received by expreſs, was laid before the Congreſs and read, and the ſame being taken into conſideration,

Reſolved, THAT the Provincial Convention of New-York be deſired immediately to apply to Governor Trumbull to order the Connecticut troops now ſtationed at Greenwich, Stanford, and parts adjacent, to march towards New-York.

Adjourned till to-morrow at 9 o'clock.

SATURDAY, *June* 17, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

THE Committee appointed to draught a Commiſſion to the General, reported the ſame, which being read by paragraphs and debated, was agreed to as follows:

In

In CONGRESS.

The DELEGATES of the UNITED COLONIES of *New-Hampſhire*, *Maſſachuſetts Bay*, *Rhode-Iſland*, *Connecticut*, *New York*, *New Jerſey*, *Pennſylvania*, the counties of *New Caſtle Kent* and *Suſſex* on *Delaware*, *Maryland*, *Virginia*, *North-Carolina*, and *South Carolina*.

To GEORGE WASHINGTON, ESQUIRE.

WE repoſing eſpecial truſt and confidence in your patriotiſm, valour, conduct and fidelity, do, by theſe preſents conſtitute and appoint you, to be General and Commander in Chief, of the Army of the United Colonies, and of all the Forces now raiſed or to be raiſed by them, and of all others, who ſhall voluntarily offer their ſervice, and join the ſaid army for the defence of American Liberty, and for repelling every hoſtile invaſion thereof: And you are hereby veſted with full power and authority to act as you ſhall think for the good and welfare of the ſervice.

And we do hereby ſtrictly charge and require all officers and ſoldiers under your command, to be obedient to your orders, and diligent in the exerciſe of their ſeveral duties.

And we do alſo enjoin and require you, to be careful in executing the great truſt repoſed in you, by cauſing ſtrict diſcipline and order to be obſerved in the army, and that the ſoldiers be duly exerciſed and provided with all convenient neceſſaries.

And you are to regulate your conduct in every reſpect by the rules and diſcipline of war (as herewith given you,) and punctually to obſerve and follow ſuch orders and directions from time to time, as you ſhall receive from this or a future Congreſs of theſe United Colonies or Committee of Congreſs.

This Commiſſion to continue in force, until revoked by this or a future Congreſs.

By Order of the CONGRESS.

Ordered, THAT the ſame be fairly tranſcribed, ſigned by the Preſident, atteſted by the Secretary, and delivered to the General.

Reſolved unanimouſly, WHEREAS the Delegates of all the Colonies from Nova-Scotia to Georgia, in Congreſs aſſembled, have unanimouſly choſen *GEORGE WASHINGTON*, Eſquire, to be General and Commander in Chief of ſuch forces as are or ſhall be raiſed for the maintenance and preſervation of American Liberty; this Congreſs doth now declare, that they will maintain and aſſiſt him, and adhere to him the ſaid *George Waſhington* with their lives and fortunes in the ſame cauſe.

THE Congreſs then proceeded to the choice of the Officers in the Army by ballot.

ARTEMUS WARD, Eſquire, was choſen firſt Major General.

HORATIO GATES, Eſquire, Adjutant General.

Reſolved,

Reſolved, THAT HORATIO GATES, Eſquire, now choſen Adjutant General, ſhall have the rank of Brigadier General.

CHARLES LEE, Eſquire, ſecond Major General.

Adjourned till Monday at 9 o'clock.

MONDAY, *June* 19, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

THE Preſident laid before the Congreſs ſundry letters he had received from Maſſachuſetts-Bay and New-York, which were read.

Ordered, THAT Mr. *Henry*, Mr. *Lynch*, and Mr. *J. Adams*, be a Committee to wait upon General *Lee*, and to inform him of his appointment, and requeſt his anſwer whether he will accept the command.

THE Committee returned and reported, that they had waited on General *Lee*, and informed him of his appointment, and that he gave for anſwer: "That he had the higheſt ſenſe of the "honor conferred upon him by the Congreſs; "that no effort in his power ſhall be wanting "to ſerve the American cauſe."

THE letters from Maſſachuſetts-Bay being taken into conſideration, the Congreſs came to the following reſolve:

THAT the Governor of Connecticut be requeſted to direct all the forces raiſed in that Colony, not employed at Ticonderoga and Crown-Point, or recommended by this Congreſs, to be marched towards New York, to be immediately ſent to join the combined army before Boſton: And it is earneſtly recommended to the colony of Rhode-Iſland, and to the provincial Convention of New-Hampſhire, to ſend immediately to the army before Boſton ſuch of the forces as are already embodied towards their quotas of the troops agreed to be raiſed by the New-England colonies.

Reſolved, THAT Mr. *Lee*, Mr. *E. Rutledge*, and Mr. *J. Adams*, be a Committee to prepare the form of a commiſſion for the Major Generals, alſo for the Brigadier Generals, and other officers in the army.

Reſolved, THAT there be four Major Generals.

THE Congreſs then proceeded to chuſe the two remaining Major Generals, when PHILIP SCHUYLER, Eſq; was choſen third Major General, and ISRAEL PUTNAM, Eſq; was unanimouſly choſen fourth Major General.

THE Committee appointed to prepare the form of a Commiſſion for the Major and Brigadier Generals reported the ſame, which being agreed,

Ordered, THAT a copy thereof be made out, ſigned by the Preſident, and atteſted by the Secretary, for each of the Major Generals and Brigadier Generals.

Ordered,

Ordered, THAT the Secretary get a number of Commiſſions, with proper blanks, printed for the other officers.

THE Committee appointed to prepare a Petition to the King, reported a draught of one, which was read.

Adjourned till to-morrow 9 o'clock.

TUESDAY, *June* 20, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

THE Committee appointed to prepare inſtructions to the General reported the ſame, which being read and debated, were agreed to.

Adjourned till to-morrow at 9 o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, *June* 21, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

MR. THOMAS JEFFERSON appeared as a Delegate from the colony of Virginia, and produced his credentials, which were read and approved, and are as follows.

AT a Convention of the Delegates for the counties and corporations in the colony of Virginia, at the town of Richmond, in the county of Henrico on Monday, 27th March, 1775.

On a motion made, Reſolved, THAT THOMAS JEFFERSON, Eſq; be appointed a Deputy to repreſent

preſent this colony in general Congreſs, in the room of the honorable PEYTON RANDOLPH, Eſq; in caſe of the non-attendance of the ſaid PEYTON RANDOLPH, Eſquire.

Atteſt, JOHN TAZEWELL, *Clerk of Convention.*

AT a General Aſſembly, began and held at the Capitol, in the city of Williamſburg, on Thurſday, 1ſt June, in the fifteenth year of the reign of our Lord George the Third, by the grace of God of Great Britain, &c. A. D. 1775.

Monday, 5th June, 15th G. III. 1775.

Reſolved, N. C. D. THAT this Houſe doth entirely approve of the Proceedings and Reſolutions of the Convention of Delegates for the counties and corporations, in the colony of Virginia, held at Richmond town, in the county of Henrico, the 20th of March, 1775; and that it be recommended to all the good people of this colony ſtrictly to conform to, and obſerve the ſame.

By the Houſe of Burgeſſes,

PEYTON RANDOLPH, *Speaker.*

Mr. *Henry* informed the Congreſs, that the General had put into his hand ſundry queries, to which he deſired the Congreſs would give an anſwer.

THE queries being read and debated.

Reſolved,

Resolved, That a Committee of five be appointed to prepare proper answers.

The persons chosen were Mr. *Dean*, Mr. *Henry*, Mr. *J. Rutledge*, Mr. *S. Adams*, and Mr. *Lee*.

On a motion made, *Resolved*, That the General be allowed three Aids de Camp.

That each of the Major-Generals have two Aids de Camp.

That their pay be *thirty-three Dollars* per month each.

Adjourned till to-morrow at 9 o'clock.

Thursday, *June* 22, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

The Committee appointed to prepare answers to the Generals queries, reported the same which were read.

The Congress then came to the following Resolutions:

Resolved, That the number of Brigadier-Generals be augmented to eight; and the same were chosen by ballot as follows:

Seth

SETH POMEROY, Eſq; firſt Brigadier General.
RICHARD MONTGOMERY, Eſq; ſecond ditto.
DAVID WORSTER, Eſq; third ditto.
WILLIAM HEATH, Eſq; fourth ditto.
JOSEPH SPENCER, Eſq; fifth ditto.
JOHN THOMAS, Eſq; ſixth ditto.
JOHN SULLIVAN, Eſq; ſeventh ditto.
NATHANIEL GREEN, Eſq; eighth ditto.

Reſolved, THAT the troops, including the volunteers, be furniſhed with Camp equipage and blankets where neceſſary, at the Continental expence.

Reſolved, THAT the officers now in the army receive their new Commiſſions through the hands of the General.

Reſolved, THAT a ſum not exceeding two millions of Spaniſh milled Dollars be emitted by the Congreſs in bills of credit, for the defence of America.

Reſolved, THAT the Twelve Confederated Colonies be pledged for the redemption of the bills of credit now directed to be emitted.

Upon motion made, *Reſolved*, THAT the Colony of Pennſylvania raiſe two more companies of riflemen, and that theſe, with the ſix before ordered to be by them raiſed, making eight companies, be formed into a battalion, to be commanded by ſuch Field Officers, Captains and Lieutenants

as

as ſhall be recommended by the Aſſembly or Convention of ſaid Colony.

Adjourned till to-morrow 9 o'clock.

TUESDAY, *June* 23, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

A LETTER from Crown-Point, dated June 10, was laid before the Congreſs and read. Information being given, that two Officers who brought the letters were at the door, and had ſome things of importance to communicate.

Ordered, THAT they be introduced, and they were introduced. After they withdrew, the Congreſs came to the following Reſolutions, viz.

Reſolved, THAT it be recommended to the Officer commanding in the New-York department, to procure, as ſoon as poſſible, a liſt of the men employed in taking and garriſoning Crown-Point and Ticonderoga and keeping poſſeſſion of the lakes, and alſo of their diſburſements, in order that they may be paid.

Reſolved, THAT their pay be the ſame as that of the officers and privates in the American army; the higheſt of the officers not to exceed that of a Captain, and that the pay commence

the third day of May laſt, and continue till they are diſcharged.

Reſolved, THAT it be recommended to the Convention of New York, that they, conſulting with General Schuyler, employ in the army to be raiſed for the defence of America, the regiment of Green Mountain Boys under ſuch officers as the ſaid Green Mountain Boys ſhall chuſe.

On a motion made, *Reſolved*, THAT a Committee of five be choſen to draw up a Declaration to be publiſhed by General WASHINGTON, upon his arrival at the Camp before Boſton.

THE Committee choſen are Mr. *J. Rutledge*, Mr. *W. Livingſton*, Mr. *Franklin*, Mr. *Jay*, and Mr. *Johnſon*.

AGREEABLE to order, the Congreſs reſolved itſelf into a Committee of the whole, to take into further conſideration the ſtate of America, and after ſome time ſpent therein, the Preſident reſumed the Chair, and Mr. *Ward* reported certain Reſolutions come into by them, and that not having yet finiſhed, they deſired leave to ſit again.

THE report of the Committee being read, was agreed to as follows:

Reſolved,

Resolved, THAT that the number and denomination of the bills to be emitted be as follows:

49,000	Bills of	8 Dollars each	= 392,000
49,000	Do. of	7 Dollars each	= 343,000
49,000	Do. of	6 Dollars each	= 294,000
49,000	Do. of	5 Dollars each	= 245,000
49,000	Do. of	4 Dollars each	= 196,000
49,000	Do. of	3 Dollars each	= 147,000
49,000	Do. of	2 Dollars each	= 98,000
49,000	Do. of	1 Dollars each	= 49,000
11,800	Do. of	20 Dollars each	= 236,000
Total 443,800			2,000,000

Resolved, THAT the form of the bills be as follows:

CONTINENTAL CURRENCY.

N DOLLARS.

THIS bill entitles the bearer to receive Spanish milled dollars, or the value thereof in gold or silver, according to the resolutions of the Congress, held at Philadelphia, on the 10*th day of May, A. D.* 1775.

Resolved, THAT Mr. *J. Adams*, Mr. *J. Rutledge*, Mr. *Duane*, Doctor *Franklin*, and Mr. *Wilson*, be a Committee to get proper plates engraved, to provide paper, and to agree with Printers to print the above bills.

THE order for a Committee of the whole renewed, and the Congress adjourned till tomorrow at 9 o'clock.

SATURDAY, *June* 24, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

On a motion made, Resolved, THAT a Committee of seven be appointed to devise ways and means to put the militia of America in a proper state for the defence of America.

THE Members chosen are Mr. *Paine*, Mr. *Harrison*, Mr. *Sherman*, Mr. *Hopkins*, Mr. *Floyd*, Mr. *Gadsden*, and Mr. *Dickinson*.

THE Committee appointed to prepare a declaration to be published by General *Washington* upon his arrival at the camp before Boston, brought in their report, which was read and debated, and after some time referred for farther consideration till Monday next.

Adjourned till Monday at 9 o'clock.

MONDAY, *June* 26, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

A LETTER from Governor Trumbull was read, and referred to the Committee appointed to devise ways and means for introducing the manufacture of salt-petre into these colonies.

THE

THE ſtate of North-Carolina being taken into conſideration, the Congreſs came to the following reſolutions.

WHEREAS it is repreſented to this Congreſs, that the enemies of the Liberties of America are purſuing meaſures to divide the good people of the colony of North-Carolina, and to defeat the American Aſſociation,

Reſolved, THAT it be recommended to all in that colony, who wiſh well to the Liberties of America, to aſſociate for the defence of American Liberty, and to embody themſelves as Militia, under proper Officers.

Reſolved, THAT in caſe the Aſſembly or Convention of that colony ſhall think it abſolutely neceſſary for the ſupport of the American Aſſociation and ſafety of the colony, to raiſe a body of forces not exceeding one thouſand men, this Congreſs will conſider them as an American Army, and provide for their pay.

THE Congreſs then reſumed the conſideration of the declaration, and after ſome debate,

Reſolved, THAT it be re-committed, and that Mr. *Dickinſon* and Mr. *Jefferſon* be added to the Committee.

THE Committee for Indian affairs brought in their report, which was read.

Ordered, THAT the Preſident write to Governor Trumbull, and inform him, and alſo the Conventions

Conventions of New-Hampſhire and Maſſachuſetts-Bay, and the government of Rhode-Iſland, that the Congreſs have appointed GEORGE WASHINGTON, Eſq; Commander in Chief of all the Forces raiſed or to be raiſed for the defence of America.

Adjourned till to-morrow at 9 o'clock.

TUESDAY, *June* 27, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

On motion made, Reſolved, THAT Governor Skene be ſent under a guard to Weathersfield, or Middletown, in the county of Hartford, in Connecticut, there to be confined on his parole, not to go out of the bounds preſcribed to him by Governor Trumbull.

Ordered, THAT the Delegates for Pennſylvania take meaſures to have the above Reſolve carried into execution.

A LETTER from the Convention of Maſſachuſetts-Bay, received by expreſs, was laid before the Congreſs and read.

THE Congreſs then reſumed the conſideration of the ſtate of affairs in the New-York department, and after ſome time ſpent therein, came to certain reſolutions, which were ordered to be immediately tranſmitted to General Schuyler for his direction.

THE Committee appointed to draw up an Addreſs to the Inhabitants of Great Britain, reported the ſame, which was read.

Adjourned till to-morrow at 9 o'clock.

WEDNESDAY,

WEDNESDAY, *June* 28, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

THE Committee appointed to prepare a draught of Rules and Regulations for the government of the Army, reported the ſame, which was read and taken into conſideration. And the remainder of the day, and the day following being ſpent thereon, adjourned till the next day at 9 o'clock.

FRIDAY, *June* 30, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

THE Congreſs reſumed the conſideration of the Rules and Regulations, which being gone through were agreed to, as follows.

WHEREAS his Majeſty's moſt faithful ſubjects in theſe Colonies are reduced to a dangerous and critical ſituation, by the attempts of the Britiſh Miniſtry, to carry into execution, by force of arms, ſeveral unconſtitutional and oppreſſive acts of the Britiſh Parliament for laying taxes in America, to enforce the collection of thoſe taxes, and for altering and changing the conſtitution and internal police of ſome of theſe Colonies, in violation of the natural and civil rights of the Colonies.

AND whereas hoſtilities have been actually commenced in the Maſſachuſett's-Bay, by the Britiſh troops, under the command of General Gage, and the lives of a number of the inhabitants of that Colony deſtroyed; the town of

Boſton

Boſton not only having been long occupied as a garriſoned town in an enemies country, but the inhabitants thereof treated with a ſeverity and cruelty not to be juſtified even towards declared enemies.

AND whereas large reinforcements have been ordered, and are ſoon expected, for the declared purpoſe of compelling theſe Colonies to ſubmit to the operation of the ſaid acts, which hath rendered it neceſſary, and an indiſpenſable duty for the expreſs purpoſe of ſecuring and defending theſe Colonies, and preſerving them in ſafety againſt all attempts to carry the ſaid acts into execution; that an armed force be raiſed ſufficient to defeat ſuch hoſtile deſigns, and preſerve and defend the lives, liberties and immunities of the Colonists; for the due regulating and well ordering of which,

Reſolved, THAT the following RULES and ORDERS be attended to, and obſerved by ſuch forces as are or may hereafter be raiſed for the purpoſes aforeſaid.

Article 1. THAT every officer who ſhall be retained, and every ſoldier who ſhall ſerve in the Continental Army, ſhall, at the time of his acceptance of his commiſſion or inliſtment, ſubſcribe theſe rules and regulations. And that the officers and ſoldiers, already of that army, ſhall alſo as ſoon as may be ſubſcribe the ſame; from the time of which ſubſcription every officer and ſoldier ſhall be bound by thoſe regulations. But if any of the officers or ſoldiers, now

of

of the ſaid army, do not ſubſcribe theſe rules and regulations, then they may be retained in the ſaid army, ſubject to the rules and regulations under which they entered into the ſervice, or be diſcharged from the ſervice, at the option of the Commander in Chief.

Art. 2. It is earneſtly recommended to all officers and ſoldiers diligently to attend Divine Service; and all officers and ſoldiers, who ſhall behave indecently or irreverently at any place of Divine Worſhip, ſhall, if commiſſioned officers, be brought before a court-martial, there to be publicly and ſeverely reprimanded by the Preſident; if non-commiſſioned officers or ſoldiers, every perſon ſo offending, ſhall, for his firſt offence forfeit One Sixth of a Dollar, to be deducted out of his next pay; for the ſecond offence, he ſhall not only forfeit a like ſum, but be confined for twenty-four hours; and for every like offence, ſhall ſuffer and pay in like manner, which money ſo forfeited ſhall be applied to the uſe of the ſick ſoldiers of the troop or company to which the offender belongs.

Art. 3. Whatsoever non-commiſſioned officer or ſoldier ſhall uſe any profane oath or execration, ſhall incur the penalties expreſſed in the foregoing article; and if a commiſſioned officer be thus guilty of profane curſing or ſwearing, he ſhall forfeit and pay for each and every ſuch offence the ſum of Four Shillings, lawful money.

Art. 4. Any officer or ſoldier, who ſhall behave himſelf with contempt or diſreſpect to-

wards the General or Generals, or Commanders in Chief of the Continental Forces, or ſhall ſpeak falſe words, tending to his, or their hurt, or diſhonor, ſhall be puniſhed, according to the nature of his offence, by the judgment of a general court-martial.

Art. 5. ANY officer or ſoldier, who ſhall begin, excite, cauſe or join in any mutiny or ſedition, in the regiment, troop or company to which he belongs, or in any other regiment, troop or company of the Continental Forces, either by land or ſea, or in any part, poſt, detachment, or guard, on any pretence whatſoever, ſhall ſuffer ſuch puniſhment as by a general court-martial ſhall be ordered.

Art. 6. ANY officer, non-commiſſioned officer, or ſoldier, who being preſent at any mutiny, or ſedition, does not uſe his utmoſt endeavours to ſuppreſs the ſame, or coming to the knowledge of any mutiny, or intended mutiny, does not, without delay, give information thereof to the commanding officer, ſhall be puniſhed by order of a general court-martial according to the nature of his offence.

Art. 7. ANY officer or ſoldier, who ſhall ſtrike his ſuperior officer, or draw or offer to draw, or ſhall lift up any weapon, or offer any violence againſt him, being in the execution of his office, on any pretence whatſoever, or ſhall diſobey any lawful commands of his ſuperior officer, ſhall ſuffer ſuch puniſhment as ſhall, according to the nature of his offence, be ordered by the ſentence of a general court-martial.

Art.

Art. 8. ANY non-commiſſioned officer or ſoldier, who ſhall deſert, or without leave of his commanding officer, abſent himſelf from the troop or company to which he belongs, or from any detachment of the ſame, ſhall, upon being convicted thereof, be puniſhed according to the nature of his offence, at the diſcretion of a general court-martial.

Art. 9. WHATSOEVER officer or ſoldier ſhall be convicted of having adviſed or perſuaded any other officer or ſoldier to deſert, ſhall ſuffer ſuch puniſhment as ſhall be ordered by the ſentence of a general court martial.

Art. 10. ALL officers, of what condition ſoever, ſhall have power to part and quell all quarrels, frays, and diſorders, though the perſons concerned ſhould belong to another regiment, troop or company; and either order officers to be arreſted, or non-commiſſioned officers or ſoldiers to be confined and impriſoned, till their proper ſuperior officers ſhall be acquainted therewith; and whoever ſhall refuſe to obey ſuch officer (though of an inferior rank) or ſhall draw his ſword upon him, ſhall be puniſhed at the diſcretion of a general court-martial.

Art. 11. No officer or ſoldier ſhall uſe any reproachful or provoking ſpeeches or geſtures to another; nor ſhall preſume to ſend a challenge to any perſon to fight a duel: And whoever ſhall knowingly and willingly ſuffer any perſon whatſoever to go forth to fight a duel; or ſhall

second, promote, or carry any challenge, shall be deemed as a principal: And whatsoever officer or soldier shall upbraid another for refusing a challenge, shall also be considered as a challenger: And all such offenders, in any of these or such like cases, shall be punished at the discretion of a general court-martial.

Art. 12. EVERY officer commanding in quarters, or on a march, shall keep good order, and, to the utmost of his power, redress all such abuses, or disorders which may be committed by any officer or soldier under his command: If upon any complaint being made to him, of officers or soldiers beating, or otherwise ill-treating any person, or of committing any kind of riot, to the disquieting of the inhabitants of this continent; he the said commander, who shall refuse or omit to see justice done on the offender or offenders, and reparation made to the party or parties injured, as far as the offenders wages shall enable him or them, shall, upon due proof thereof, be punished as ordered by a general court-martial, in such manner as if he himself had committed the crimes or disorders complained of.

Art. 13. IF any officer should think himself to be wronged by his Colonel or the commanding officer of the regiment, and shall, upon due application made to him, be refused to be redressed, he may complain to the General or Commander in Chief of the Continental Forces, in order to obtain justice, who is hereby required to examine into said complaint, and see that justice be done.

Art.

Art. 14. If any inferior officer or ſoldier, ſhall think himſelf wronged by his Captain or other officer commanding the troop or company to which he belongs, he is to complain thereof to the commanding officer of the regiment, who is hereby required to ſummon a regimental court martial, for the doing juſtice to the complainant; from which regimental court-martial, either party may, if he thinks himſelf ſtill aggrieved, appeal to a general court-martial; but if, upon a ſecond hearing, the appeal ſhall appear to be vexatious and groundleſs, the perſon ſo appealing, ſhall be puniſhed at the diſcretion of the general court-martial.

Art. 15. Whatsoever non-commiſſioned officer or ſoldier, ſhall be convicted, at a regimental court-martial, of having ſold, or deſignedly, or through neglect, waſted the ammunition, arms or proviſions, or other military ſtores, delivered out to him, to be employed in the ſervice of this continent, ſhall, if an officer, be reduced to a private centinel; and if a private ſoldier, ſhall ſuffer ſuch puniſhment as ſhall be ordered by a regimental court-martial.

Art. 16. All non-commiſſioned officers and ſoldiers, who ſhall be found one mile from the Camp, without leave in writing from their commanding officer, ſhall ſuffer ſuch puniſhment as ſhall be inflicted on him or them by the ſentence of a regimental court-martial.

Art. 17. No officer or ſoldier ſhall lie out of his quarters, or camp, without leave from the commanding

commanding officer of the regiment, upon penalty of being punished according to the nature of his offence, by order of a regimental court-martial.

Art. 18. EVERY non-commissioned officer and soldier shall retire to his quarters, or tent, at the beating of the retreat; in default of which, he shall be punished according to the nature of his offence, by order of the commanding officer.

Art. 19. No officer, non-commissioned officer or soldier shall fail of repairing, at the time fixed, to the place of parade or exercise, or other rendezvous appointed by the commanding officer, if not prevented by sickness, or some other evident necessity; or shall go from the said place of rendezvous, or from his guard, without leave from his commanding officer, before he shall be regularly dismissed or relieved, on penalty of being punished according to the nature of his offence, by the sentence of a regimental court-martial.

Art. 20. WHATSOEVER commissioned officer shall be found drunk on his guard, party or duty, under arms, shall be cashiered for it; any non-commissioned officer or soldier, so offending, shall suffer such punishment as shall be ordered by the sentence of a regimental court-martial.

Art. 21. WHATSOEVER centinel shall be found sleeping upon his post, or shall leave it before he shall be regularly relieved, shall suffer such punishment

punishment as shall be ordered by the sentence of a general court-martial.

Art. 22. Any person belonging to the Continental Army, who, by discharging of fire-arms, beating of drums, or by any other means whatsoever, shall occasion false alarms, in camp or quarters, shall suffer such punishment as shall be ordered by the sentence of a general court-martial.

Art. 23. Any officer or soldier, who shall without urgent necessity, or without leave of his superior officer, quit his platoon or division, shall be punished according to the nature of his offence, by the sentence of a regimental court-martial.

Art. 24. No officer or soldier shall do violence, or offer any insult, or abuse, to any person who shall bring provisions, or other necessaries, to the camp, or quarters of the continental army; any officer or soldier so offending, shall, upon complaint being made to the commanding officer, suffer such punishment as shall be ordered by a regimental court-martial.

Art. 25. Whatsoever officer or soldier shall shamefully abandon any post committed to his charge, or shall speak words inducing others to do the like, in time of an engagement, shall suffer death immediately.

Art. 26. Any person belonging to the continental army, who shall make known the watch-

word

word to any perſon who is not intitled to receive it, according to the rules and diſcipline of war, or ſhall preſume to give a parole, or watch-word, different from what he received, ſhall ſuffer death, or ſuch other puniſhment as ſhall be ordered by the ſentence of a general court-martial.

Art. 27. WHOSOEVER, belonging to the continental army, ſhall relieve the enemy with money, victuals, or ammunition; or ſhall knowingly harbour or protect an enemy, ſhall ſuffer ſuch puniſhment as by a general court-martial ſhall be ordered.

Art. 28. WHOSOEVER, belonging to the continental army, ſhall be convicted of holding correſpondence with, or of giving intelligence to the enemy, either directly or indirectly, ſhall ſuffer ſuch puniſhment as by a general court-martial ſhall be ordered.

Art. 29. ALL public ſtores taken in the enemy's camp or magazines, whether of artillery, ammunition, cloathing or proviſions, ſhall be ſecured for the uſe of the United Colonies.

Art. 30. IF any officer or ſoldier ſhall leave his poſt or colours, in time of an engagement, to go in ſearch of plunder, he ſhall, upon being convicted thereof before a general court-martial, ſuffer ſuch puniſhment as by ſaid court-martial ſhall be ordered.

Art. 31. IF any commander of any poſt, intrenchment, or fortreſs, ſhall be *compelled*, by the

the officers or ſoldiers under his command, to give it up to the enemy, or to abandon it, the commiſſioned officer, non-commiſſioned officers or ſoldiers who ſhall be convicted of having ſo offended, ſhall ſuffer death, or ſuch other puniſhment as may be inflicted upon them by the ſentence of a general court-martial.

Art. 32. All ſuttlers and retailers to a camp, and all perſons whatſoever, ſerving with the continental army in the field, though not inliſted ſoldiers, are to be ſubject to the articles, rules, and regulations of the continental army.

Art. 33. No general court-martial ſhall conſiſt of a leſs number than thirteen, none of which ſhall be under the degree of a commiſſioned officer; and the preſident ſhall be a field officer: And the preſident of each and every court-martial, whether general or regimental, ſhall have power to adminiſter an oath to every witneſs, in order to the trial of offenders. And the members of all courts-martial ſhall be duly ſworn by the preſident; and the next in rank on the court-martial, ſhall adminiſter the oath to the preſident.

Art. 34. The members, both of general and regimental courts-martial, ſhall, when belonging to different corps, take the ſame rank which they hold in the army; but when courts-martial ſhall be compoſed of officers of

one corps, they ſhall take their ranks according to their commiſſions by which they are muſtered in the ſaid corps.

Art. 35. ALL the members of a court-martial, are to behave with calmneſs, decency, and impartiality; and in giving of their votes, are to begin with the youngeſt or loweſt in commiſſion.

Art. 36. No field officer ſhall be tried by any perſon under the degree of a captain; nor ſhall any proceedings or trials be carried on, excepting between the hours of eight in the morning, and three in the afternoon, except in caſes which require an immediate example.

Art. 37. THE commiſſioned officers of every regiment may, by the appointment of their colonel or commanding officer, hold regimental courts-martial for the enquiring into ſuch diſputes or criminal matters as may come before them, and for the inflicting corporal puniſhments, for ſmall offences, and ſhall give judgment by the majority of voices; but no ſentence ſhall be executed till the commanding officer (not being a member of the court-martial) ſhall have confirmed the ſame.

Art. 38. No regimental court-martial ſhall conſiſt of leſs than five officers, excepting in caſes where that number cannot be conveniently aſſembled, when three may be ſufficient; who are likewiſe to determine upon the ſentence

tence by the majority of voices; which ſentence is to be confirmed by the commanding officer, not being a member of the court-martial.

Art. 39. Every officer, commanding in any fort, caſtle, or barrack, or elſewhere, where the corps under his command conſiſts of detachments from different regiments, or of independent companies, may aſſemble courts-martial for the trial of offenders in the ſame manner as if they were regimental, whoſe ſentence is not to be executed till it ſhall be confirmed by the ſaid commanding officer.

Art. 40. No perſon whatſoever ſhall uſe menacing words, ſigns, or geſtures in the preſence of a court-martial then ſitting, or ſhall cauſe any diſorder or riot, ſo as to diſturb their proceeding, on the penalty of being puniſhed at the diſcretion of the ſaid court-martial.

Art. 41. To the end that offenders may be brought to juſtice; whenever any officer or ſoldier ſhall commit a crime deſerving puniſhment, he ſhall by his commanding officer, if an officer, be put in arreſt; if a non commiſſioned officer or ſoldier, be impriſoned till he ſhall be either tried by a court-martial, or ſhall be lawfully diſcharged by proper authority.

Art. 42. No officer or ſoldier who ſhall be put in arreſt, or impriſonment, ſhall continue in his confinement more than eight days, or till ſuch time as a court-martial can be conveniently aſſembled.

Art. 43.

Art. 43. No officer commanding a guard, or provoſt-marſhal, ſhall refuſe to receive or keep any priſoner committed to his charge, by an officer belonging to the continental forces; which officer ſhall at the ſame time deliver an account in writing, ſigned by himſelf, of the crime with which the ſaid priſoner is charged.

Art. 44. No officer commanding a guard, or provoſt-marſhal, ſhall preſume to releaſe any priſoner committed to his charge, without proper authority for ſo doing; nor ſhall he ſuffer any priſoner to eſcape, on the penalty of being puniſhed for it, by the ſentence of a general court-martial.

Art. 45. EVERY officer or provoſt-marſhal, to whoſe charge priſoners ſhall be committed, is hereby required, within twenty-four hours after ſuch commitment, or as ſoon as he ſhall be relieved from his guard, to give in writing to the colonel of the regiment to whom the priſoner belongs (where the priſoner is confined upon the guard belonging to the ſaid regiment, and that his offence only relates to the neglect of duty in his own corps) or to the commander in chief, their names, their crimes, and the names of the officers who committed them, on the penalty of being puniſhed for his diſobedience or neglect, at the diſcretion of a general court-martial.

Art. 46. AND if any officer under arreſt ſhall leave his confinement before he is ſet at liberty by the officer who confined him, or

by

by a ſuperior power, he ſhall be caſhiered for it.

Art. 47. WHATSOEVER commiſſioned officer ſhall be convicted before a general court-martial, of behaving in a ſcandalous, infamous manner, ſuch as is unbecoming the character of an officer and a gentleman, ſhall be diſcharged from the ſervice.

Art. 48. ALL officers, conductors, gunners, matroſſes, drivers, or any other perſons whatſoever, receiving pay or hire, in the ſervice of the continental artillery, ſhall be governed by the aforeſaid rules and articles, and ſhall be ſubject to be tried by courts-martial, in like manner with the officers and ſoldiers of the continental troops.

Art. 49. FOR differences ariſing amongſt themſelves, or in matters relating ſolely to their own corps, the courts-martial may be compoſed of their own officers; but where a number ſufficient of ſuch officers cannot be aſſembled, or in matters wherein other corps are intereſted, the officers of artillery ſhall ſit in courts-martial, with the officers of the other corps.

Art. 50. ALL crimes not capital, and all diſorders and neglects, which officers and ſoldiers may be guilty of, to the prejudice of good order and military diſcipline, though not mentioned in the articles of war, are to be taken cognizance of by a general or regimental court-

court-martial, according to the nature and degree of the offence, and be punished at their discretion.

Art. 51. That no persons shall be sentenced by a court-martial to suffer death, except in the cases expressly mentioned in the foregoing articles; nor shall any punishment be inflicted at the discretion of a court-martial, other than degrading, cashiering, drumming out of the army, whipping not exceeding *Thirty-nine* lashes, fine not exceeding two months pay of the offender, imprisonment not exceeding one month.

Art. 52. The field officers of each and every regiment are to appoint some suitable person belonging to such regiment, to receive all such fines as may arise within the same, for any breach of any of the foregoing articles, and shall direct the same to be carefully and properly applied to the relief of such sick, wounded, or necessitous soldiers, as belong to such regiment; and such person shall account with such officer for all fines received, and the application thereof.

Art. 53. All members sitting in courts-martial shall be sworn by the president of said courts, which president shall himself be sworn by the officer in said court next in rank:—The oath to be administered previous to their proceeding to the trial of any offender, in form following, viz.

"You

"*You A. B. swear that you will well and truly try, and impartially determine the cause of the prisoner now to be tried, according to the rules for regulating the Continental Army.* So help you God."

Art. 54. ALL persons called to give evidence, in any case, before a court-martial, who shall refuse to give evidence, shall be punished for such refusal, at the discretion of such court-martial:—The oath to be administered in the following form, viz.

"*You swear the evidence you shall give in the case now in hearing, shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.* So help you God."

Art. 55. EVERY officer commanding a regiment, troop, or company, shall, upon notice given to him by the commissary of the musters, or from one of his deputies, assemble the regiment, troop, or company under his command, in the next convenient place for their being mustered.

Art. 56. EVERY colonel or other field officer, or officer commanding any corps, to which there is no field officer, and actually residing with it, may give furloughs to non-commissioned officers and soldiers, in such numbers, and for so long a time, as he shall judge to be most consistent with the good of the service; but no non-commissioned officer or soldier shall, by leave of his captain, or inferior

ferior officer, commanding the troop or company (his field officer not being present) be absent above twenty days in six months, nor shall more than two private men be absent at the same time from their troop or company, excepting some extraordinary occasion shall require it, of which occasion the field officer present with, and commanding the regiment or independent corps, is to be judge.

Art. 57. At every muster the commanding officer of each regiment, troop, or company, then present, shall give to the commissary of musters certificates signed by himself, signifying how long such officers, non-commissioned officers, and soldiers, who shall not appear at the said muster, have been absent, and the reason of their absence; which reasons, and the time of absence, shall be inserted in the muster rolls, opposite to the respective names of such absentees: The said certificates shall, together with the muster rolls, be by the said commissary transmitted to the General, and to this or any future Congress of the united Colonies or Committee appointed thereby, within twenty days next after such muster being taken; on failure whereof, the commissary so offending, shall be discharged from the service.

Art. 58. Every officer who shall be convicted before a general court-martial of having signed a false certificate, relating to the absence of either officers, non-commissioned officer, or private soldier, shall be cashiered.

Art. 59.

Art. 59. EVERY officer who ſhall knowingly make a falſe muſter of man or horſe, and every officer or commiſſary, who ſhall wittingly ſign, direct, or allow the ſigning of the muſter rolls, wherein ſuch falſe muſter is contained, ſhall, upon proof made thereof, by two witneſſes, before a general court-martial, be caſhiered, and moreover forfeit all ſuch pay as may be due to him at the time of conviction for ſuch offence.

Art. 60. ANY commiſſary who ſhall be convicted of having taken any gift or gratuity on the muſtering any regiment, troop, or company, or on the ſigning the muſter rolls, ſhall be diſplaced from his office, and forfeit his pay, as in the preceeding article.

Art. 61. ANY officer, who ſhall preſume to muſter any perſon as a ſoldier, who is at other times accuſtomed to wear a livery, or who does not actually do his duty as a ſoldier, ſhall be deemed guilty of having made a falſe muſter, and ſhall ſuffer accordingly.

Art. 62. EVERY officer who ſhall knowingly make a falſe return to the commander in chief of the American forces, or to any his ſuperior officer, authorized to call for ſuch returns, of the ſtate of the regiment, troop, independent company, or garriſon, under his command, or of arms, ammunition, cloathing, or other ſtores thereunto belonging, ſhall, by a court-martial, be caſhiered.

Art. 63. THE commanding officer of every regiment, troop, independent company or gar-

riſon, in the ſervice aforeſaid, ſhall, in the beginning of every month remit to the commander in chief of ſaid forces an exact return of the ſtate of the regiment, troop, independent company, or garriſon under his command, ſpecifying the names of the officers not then reſiding at their poſts, and the reaſon for, and time of their abſence: Whoever ſhall be convicted of having, through neglect or deſign, omitted the ſending ſuch returns, ſhall be puniſhed according to the the nature of his crime by the judgment of a general court-martial.

Art. 64. No ſuttler ſhall be permitted to ſell any kind of liquors or victuals, or to keep their houſes or ſhops open, for the entertainment of ſoldiers, after nine at night, or before the beating of the reveilles, or upon Sundays, during divine ſervice or ſermon, on the penalty of being diſmiſſed from all future ſuttling.

Art. 65. ALL officers commanding in the camp, or in any forts, barracks, or garriſons, are hereby required to ſee that the perſons permitted to ſuttle ſhall ſupply the ſoldiers with good and wholeſome proviſions at a reaſonable price, as they ſhall be anſwerable for their neglect.

Art. 66. No officers commanding in any camp, garriſons, forts, or barracks, ſhall either themſelves exact exorbitant prices for houſes or ſtalls, let out to ſuttlers, or ſhall connive at the like exactions in others, nor lay any duty or impoſitions upon, or be intereſted in the ſale of

ſuch

ſuch victuals, liquors, or other neceſſaries of life, which are brought into the camp, garriſon, fort, or barracks, for the uſe of the ſoldiers, on the penalty of being diſcharged from the ſervice.

Art. 67. THAT the general, or commander in chief for the time being, ſhall have full power of pardoning, or mitigating any of the puniſhments ordered to be inflicted, for any of the offences mentioned in the foregoing articles; and every offender convicted as aforeſaid; by any regimental court-martial, may be pardoned, or have his puniſhment mitigated by the Colonel or officer commanding the regiment.

Art. 68. WHEN any commiſſioned officer ſhall happen to die, or be killed in the ſervice of the United Colonies, the Major of the regiment, or the officer doing the Major's duty in his abſence, ſhall immediately ſecure all his effects, or equipage then in camp or quarters; and ſhall before the next regimental court-martial, make an inventory thereof, and forthwith tranſmit to the office of the Secretary of the Congreſs, or Aſſembly of the province in which the corps is ſtationed, or ſhall happen to be at the time of the death of ſuch officer; to the end, that his executors may, after payment of his debts in quarters, and interment, receive the overplus, if any be, to his or their uſe.

Art. 69. WHEN any non-commiſſioned officer or private ſoldier, ſhall happen to die, or be killed in the ſervice of the United Colonies, the then commanding officer of the troop or com-

pany, ſhall, in the preſence of two other commiſſioned officers, take an account of whatever effects he dies poſſeſſed of, and tranſmit the ſame, as in the caſe above provided for, in order that the ſame may be ſecured for, and paid to their reſpective repreſentatives. *

Ordered,

* *In* CONGRESS, *November* 7, 1775.

Reſolved, THAT the following additions and alterations or amendments, be made in the RULES and REGULATIONS of the Continental Army, *viz.*

1. ALL perſons convicted of holding a treacherous correſpondence with, or giving intelligence to the enemy, ſhall ſuffer death, or ſuch other puniſhment as a general court-martial ſhall think proper.

2. ALL commiſſioned officers found guilty by a general court martial of any fraud or embezzlement, ſhall forfeit all his pay, be *ipſo facto* caſhiered, and deemed unfit for further ſervice as an officer.

3. ALL non-commiſſioned officers and ſoldiers convicted before a regimental court-martial of ſtealing, embezzling or deſtroying ammunition, proviſions, tools or any thing belonging to the public ſtores, if a non-commiſſioned officer, to be reduced to the ranks, and puniſhed with whipping, not leſs than *fifteen*, nor more than *thirty nine* laſhes, at the diſcretion of the court martial; if a private ſoldier, with the ſame corporal puniſhment.

4. IN all caſes where a commiſſioned officer is caſhiered for cowardice or fraud, it be added in the puniſhment, that the crime, name, place of abode, and puniſhment of the delinquent be publiſhed in the News-papers, in and about the Camp, and of that Colony from which the offender came or uſually reſides: After which it ſhall be deemed ſcandalous in any officer to aſſociate with him.

5. ANY officer or ſoldier, who ſhall begin, excite, cauſe, or join in any mutiny or ſedition in the regiment, troop,

Ordered, THAT Mr. *Deane*, Mr *Cushing*, and Mr. *Lewes*, be a Committee to revise them for the press, and to get them printed.

Resolved,

troop, or company to which he belongs, or in any other regiment, troop, or company of the continental forces, either by land or sea, or in any party, post, detachment, or guard, on any pretence whatsoever, shall suffer death or such other punishment as a general court martial shall direct.

6. ANY officer or soldier who shall desert to the enemy, and afterwards be taken, shall suffer death, or such other punishment as a general court martial shall direct.

7. WHATSOEVER commissioned officer shall be found drunk on his guard, party, or other duty under arms, shall be cashiered and drummed out of the army with infamy; any non-commissioned officer or soldier, so offending, shall be sentenced to be whipt, not less than *twenty* nor more than *thirty nine* lashes, according to the nature of the offence.

8 WHATSOEVER officer or soldier, placed as centinel, shall be found sleeping upon his post, or shall leave it before he shall be regularly relieved, if a commissioned officer, shall be cashiered and drummed out of the army with infamy; if a non-commissioned officer or soldier, shall be sentenced to be whipped, not less than *twenty* nor more than *thirty nine* lashes, according to the nature of the offence.

9. No officer or soldier shall lie out of his quarters or camp, without leave from the commanding officer of the regiment, upon penalty, if an officer, of being mulcted one month's pay for the first offence, and cashiered for the second; if a non commissioned officer or soldier, of being confined seven days on bread and water for the first offence, and the same punishment and a forfeiture of a week's pay for the second.

10. WHATSOEVER officer or soldier shall misbehave himself before the enemy, or shamefully abandon any post committed to his charge, or shall speak words, inducing others to do the like, shall suffer death.

Art.

Reſolved, THAT the Congreſs will on Monday next reſolve itſelf into a Committee of the whole, to conſider the trade of theſe Colonies.

A NUMBER

11. ALL public ſtores taken in the enemy's camp or magazines, whether of artillery, ammunition, cloathing, or proviſions, ſhall be ſecured for the uſe of the United Colonies. And all commiſſioned officers, found guilty by a general court martial, of embezzling the ſame, or any of them, ſhall forfeit all his pay, be *ipso facto* caſhiered, and deemed unfit for farther ſervice as an officer. And all non-commiſſioned officers and ſoldiers, convicted before a regimental court-martial of ſtealing or embezzling the ſame, if a non-commiſſioned officer, ſhall be reduced to the ranks, and puniſhed with whipping, not leſs than *fifteen*, nor more than *thirty-nine* laſhes, at the diſcretion of the court-martial, if a private ſoldier, with the ſame puniſhment.

12. IF any officer or ſoldier ſhall leave his poſt or colours, in time of an engagement, to go in ſearch of plunder, he ſhall, if a commiſſioned officer, be caſhiered and drummed out of the army with infamy, and forfeit all ſhare of plunder, if a non-commiſſioned officer or ſoldier, be whipped, not leſs than *twenty*, nor more than *thirty nine* laſhes, according to the nature of the offence, and forfeit all ſhare of plunder taken from the enemy.

13. EVERY officer commanding a regiment, troop, or company, ſhall, upon notice given to him by the commiſſary of the muſters, or from one of his deputies, aſſemble the regiment, troop, or company under his command, in the next convenient place for their being muſtered, on penalty of his being caſhiered, and mulcted of his pay.

14. AT every muſter, the commanding officer of each regiment, troop, or company, there preſent, ſhall give to the commiſſary of muſters certificates, ſigned by himſelf, ſignifying how long ſuch officers, non-commiſſioned officers, and ſoldiers, who ſhall not appear at the ſaid muſter, have been abſent, and the reaſon of their abſence, which reaſons and the time of abſence, ſhall be inſerted in the muſter rolls,

oppoſite

A NUMBER of letters and ſpeeches from the Stockbridge Indians were laid before the Congreſs and read.

Reſolved, THAT the Committee for Indian affairs, do prepare proper talks to the ſeveral tribes of Indians, for engaging the continuance of their friendſhip to us and neutrality in our preſent unhappy diſpute with Great-Britain.

Adjourned till to-morrow at 9 o'clock.

SATURDAY,

oppoſite to the names of ſuch abſentees: And the ſurgeons or their mates, ſhall at the ſame time give to the Commiſſary of muſters a certificate ſigned by them, ſignifying the ſtate of health or ſickneſs of thoſe under their care; and the ſaid certificates ſhall, together with the muſter rolls, be by the ſaid Commiſſary tranſmitted to the General, and to this or any future Congreſs of the United Colonies or Committee appointed thereby, within twenty days next after ſuch muſter being taken, on failure whereof, the Commiſſary to offending, ſhall be diſcharged from the ſervice.

15. EVERY officer who ſhall be convicted, before a general court-martial, of having ſigned a falſe certificate relating to the abſence of either officer, non-commiſſioned officer, or private ſoldier; and every Surgeon or Mate convicted of ſigning a falſe certificate, relating to the health or ſickneſs of thoſe under his care, ſhall be caſhiered.

16. ALL officers and ſoldiers who ſhall willfully, or through negligence, diſobey any general or ſpecial orders, ſhall be puniſhed at the diſcretion of a regimental court martial, where the offence is againſt a regimental order, and at the diſcretion of a general court martial, where the offence is againſt an order given from the commander in chief, or the commanding officer of any detachment or poſt, and ſuch general court-martial can be had.

SATURDAY, *July* 1, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

On motion made, Reſolved, THAT in caſe any agent of the miniſtry ſhall induce the Indian tribes, or any of them, to commit actual hoſtilities againſt theſe colonies, or to enter into an offenſive alliance with the Britiſh troops, thereupon the Colonies ought to avail themſelves of an alliance with ſuch Indian nations as will enter into the ſame, to oppoſe ſuch Britiſh troops and their Indian allies.

LETTERS being received by expreſs from General Schuyler, which required an immediate anſwer, were laid before Congreſs, and after due deliberation, an anſwer was returned.

On motion made, Reſolved, THAT Lieutenant Patrick Moncrief have liberty to return to England, on giving his parole of honour, that he will not act againſt the Americans in the preſent controverſy between Great-Britain and theſe Colonies.

Adjourned till Monday, at 9 o'clock.

MONDAY, *July* 3, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

SUNDRY letters being laid before the Congreſs, were read.

AGREEABLE

AGREEABLE to the order of the day, the Congreſs reſolved itſelf into a Committee of the whole, to conſider the trade of theſe Colonies, and after ſome time, the Preſident reſumed the chair, and Mr *Ward* reported a reſolution they had come to.

THE reſolution of the Committee being read, was at the deſire of the colony of South Carolina, referred for farther conſideration till to-morrow.

Adjourned till to-morrow at 9 o'clock.

TUESDAY, *July* 4, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

THE report from the Committee of the whole being reſumed and debated, was agreed to as follows:

Reſolved, THAT that two Acts paſſed in the firſt ſeſſion of the preſent Parliament, the one intitled "An Act to reſtrain the trade and commerce of the Province of Maſſachuſett's-Bay and New-Hampſhire, and Colonies of Connecticut and Rhode-Iſland, and Providence Plantation, in North-America, to Great-Britain, Ireland and the Britiſh Iſlands in the Weſt-Indies; and to prohibit ſuch Provinces and Colonies from carrying on any fiſhery on the Banks of Newfoundland or other places therein mentioned, under certain conditions and limitations." The

other intitled "An Act to reſtrain the trade and commerce of the Colonies of New Jerſey, Pennſylvania, Maryland, Virginia and South-Carolina, to Great-Britain, Ireland and the Britiſh Iſlands in the Weſt-Indies, under certain conditions and limitations," are unconſtitutional, oppreſſive and cruel; and that the commercial oppoſition of theſe Colonies, to certain acts enumerated in the Aſſociation of the laſt Congreſs, ought to be made againſt theſe, until they are repealed.

Ordered, That the above be immediately publiſhed.

The petition to the King being again read, after ſome debate, the further conſideration of it was deferred till to-morrow.

Adjourned till to-morrow at 9 o'clock.

Wednesday, *July* 5, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

Several letters were laid before the Congreſs and read.

It appearing that Governor Philip Skene and Mr. Lundy have deſigns inimical to America.

Ordered, That it be recommended to the Delegates of the Colony of Pennſylvania, to have the order of Congreſs of the 27th of June laſt, reſpecting

reſpecting the ſending Governor Skene to Connecticut, immediately carried into expedition.

Reſolved, THAT Mr. Lundy be ſent under guard along with Governor Skene to Connecticut, there to be confined in the ſame manner as is ordered with reſpect to Governor Skene.

Reſolved, THAT ſuch proviſion be made for the ſupport of Governor Skene and Mr. Lundy as Governor Trumbull ſhall think proper, at the expence of the United Colonies.

Ordered, THAT the Preſident write to Governor Trumbull on this ſubject, and encloſe him the above orders and reſolves.

THE Congreſs then reſumed the conſideration of the petition to the King, and the ſame being debated by paragraphs, was agreed to, and ordered to be engroſſed.

Adjourned till to-morrow at 9 o'clock.

THURSDAY, *July* 6, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

THE Congreſs took into conſideration the addreſs to the inhabitants of Great-Britain, and after ſome debate, the ſame was re-committed.

THE Committee to whom the *Declaration* was re-committed brought in the ſame, which being

again read and debated by paragraphs, was agreed to as follows:

A DECLARATION *by the* REPRESENTATIVES *of the United Colonies of North America, now met in Congreſs at Philadelphia, ſetting forth the cauſes and neceſſity of their taking up Arms.*

IF it was poſſible for men, who exerciſe their reaſon to believe, that the Divine Author of our exiſtence intended a part of the human race to hold an abſolute property in, and an unbounded power over others, marked out by his infinite goodneſs and wiſdom, as the objects of a legal domination never rightfully reſiſtible, however ſevere and oppreſſive, the Inhabitants of theſe Colonies might at leaſt require from the Parliament of Great-Britain ſome evidence, that this dreadful authority over them has been granted to that body. But a reverence for our great Creator, principles of humanity, and the dictates of common ſenſe, muſt convince all thoſe who reflect upon the ſubject, that government was inſtituted to promote the welfare of mankind, and ought to be adminiſtered for the attainment of that end. The legiſlature of Great-Britain, however, ſtimulated by an inordinate paſſion for a power not only unjuſtifiable, but which they know to be peculiarly reprobated by the very conſtitution of that kingdom, and deſperate of ſucceſs in any mode of conteſt, where regard ſhould be had to truth, law, or right, have at length, deſerting thoſe, attempted to effect their cruel and impolitic purpoſe of enſlaving theſe

Colonies

Colonies by violence, and have thereby rendered it neceſſary for us to cloſe with their laſt appeal from Reaſon to Arms.---Yet, however blinded that aſſembly may be, by their intemperate rage for unlimited domination, ſo to ſlight juſtice and the opinion of mankind, we eſteem ourſelves bound by obligations of reſpect to the reſt of the world, to make known the juſtice of our cauſe.

Our forefathers, inhabitants of the iſland of Great-Britain, left their native land, to ſeek on theſe ſhores a reſidence for civil and religious freedom. At the expence of their blood, at the hazard of their fortunes, without the leaſt charge to the country from which they removed, by unceaſing labor and an unconquerable ſpirit, they effected ſettlements in the diſtant and inhoſpitable wilds of America, then filled with numerous and warlike nations of barbarians.---Societies or governments, veſted with perfect legiſlatures, were formed under charters from the crown, and an harmonious intercourſe was eſtabliſhed between the colonies and the kingdom from which they derived their origin. The mutual benefits of this union became in a ſhort time ſo extraordinary, as to excite aſtoniſhment. It is univerſally confeſſed, that the amazing increaſe of the wealth, ſtrength and navigation of the realm, aroſe from this ſource; and the miniſter, who ſo wiſely and ſucceſsfully directed the meaſures of Great-Britain in the late war, publicly declared, that theſe colonies enabled her to triumph over her enemies.---Towards the concluſion of that war, it pleaſed our ſovereign to

make

make a change in his counſels.---From that fatal moment, the affairs of the Britiſh empire began to fall into confuſion, and gradually ſliding from the ſummit of glorious proſperity to which they had been advanced by the virtues and abilities of one man, are at length diſtracted by the convulſions, that now ſhake it to its deepeſt foundations.---The new miniſtry finding the brave foes of Britain, though frequently defeated, yet ſtill contending, took up the unfortunate idea of granting them a haſty peace, and of then ſubduing her faithful friends.

THESE devoted Colonies were judged to be in ſuch a ſtate, as to preſent victories without bloodſhed, and all the eaſy emoluments of ſtatuteable plunder---The uninterrupted tenor of their peaceable and reſpectful behaviour from the beginning of colonization, their dutiful, zealous and uſeful ſervices during the war, tho' ſo recently and amply acknowledged in the moſt honorable manner by his Majeſty, by the late King, and by Parliament, could not ſave them from the meditated innovations.---Parliament was influenced to adopt the pernicious project, and aſſuming a new power over them, have in the courſe of eleven years given ſuch deciſive ſpecimens of the ſpirit and conſequences attending this power, as to leave no doubt concerning the effects of acquieſcence under it. They have undertaken to give and grant our money without our conſent, though we have ever exerciſed an excluſive right to diſpoſe of our own property; ſtatutes have been paſſed for extending the juriſdiction of courts of Admiralty and Vice-Admiralty

miralty beyond their ancient limits; for depriving us of the accuſtomed and inеſtimable privilege of trial by jury in caſes affecting both life and property; for ſuſpending the legiſlature of one of the colonies; for interdicting all commerce to the capital of another; and for altering fundamentally the form of government eſtabliſhed by charter, and ſecured by acts of its own legiſlature ſolemnly confirmed by the crown; for exempting the "murderers" of coloniſts from legal trial, and in effect, from puniſhment; for erecting in a neighbouring province, acquired by the joint arms of Great-Britain and America, a deſpotiſm dangerous to our very exiſtence; and for quartering ſoldiers upon the coloniſts in time of profound peace. It has alſo been reſolved in parliament, that coloniſts charged with committing certain offences, ſhall be tranſported to England to be tried.

But why ſhould we enumerate our injuries in detail? By one ſtatute it is declared, that parliament can "of right make laws to bind us IN ALL CASES WHATSOEVER." What is to defend us againſt ſo enormous, ſo unlimited a power? Not a ſingle man of thoſe who aſſume it, is choſen by us; or is ſubject to our controul or influence; but on the contrary, they are all of them exempt from the operation of ſuch laws, and an American revenue, if not diverted from the oſtenſible purpoſes for which it is raiſed, would actually lighten their own burdens in proportion, as they increaſe ours. We ſaw the miſery to which ſuch deſpotiſm would reduce us. We for ten years inceſſantly and ineffectually beſieged

beſieged the Throne as ſupplicants; we reaſoned, we remonſtrated with parliament in the moſt mild and decent language.

ADMINISTRATION ſenſible that we ſhould regard theſe oppreſſive meaſures as freemen ought to do, ſent over fleets and armies to enforce them. The indignation of the Americans was rouſed it is true; but it was the indignation of a virtuous, loyal, and affectionate people. A Congreſs of Delegates from the united colonies was aſſembled at Philadelphia, on the fifth day of laſt September. We reſolve[d] again to offer an humble and dutiful petition to the King, and alſo addreſſed our fellow ſubjects of Great Britain. We have purſued every temperate, every reſpectful meaſure, we have even proceeded to break off our commercial intercourſe with our fellow ſubjects, as the laſt peaceable admonition, that our attachment to no nation upon earth ſhould ſupplant our attachment to liberty.—This, we flattered ourſelves, was the ultimate ſtep of the controverſy: But ſubſequent events have ſhewn, how vain was this hope of finding moderation in our enemies.

SEVERAL threatening expreſſions againſt the Colonies were inſerted in his Majeſty's Speech; our petition, though we were told it was a decent one, that his Majeſty had been pleaſed to receive it graciouſly, and to promiſe laying it before his Parliament, was huddled into both houſes among a bundle of American papers, and there neglected. The Lords and Commons in their addreſs, in the month of February, ſaid,

" that

that "a rebellion at that time actually exiſted within the province of Maſſachuſett's Bay; and that thoſe concerned in it, had been countenanced and encouraged by unlawful combinations and engagements, entered into by his Majeſty's ſubjects in ſeveral of the other Colonies; and therefore they beſought his Majeſty, that he would take the moſt effectual meaſures to inforce due obedience to the laws and authority of the ſupreme legiſlature."---Soon after, the commercial intercourſe of whole Colonies, with foreign countries, and with each other, was cut off by an act of Parliament, by another, ſeveral of them were intirely prohibited from the fiſheries in the ſeas near their coaſts, on which they always depended for their ſuſtenance; and large re-inforcements of ſhips and troops were immediately ſent over to General Gage.

FRUITLESS were all the entreaties, arguments and eloquence of an illuſtrious band of the moſt diſtinguiſhed Peers and Commoners, who nobly and ſtrenuouſly aſſerted the juſtice of our cauſe, to ſtay, or even to mitigate the heedleſs fury with which theſe accumulated and unexampled outrages were hurried on.—Equally fruitleſs was the interference of the city of London, of Briſtol, and many other reſpectable towns in our favour. Parliament adopted an inſidious manœuvre calculated to divide us, to eſtabliſh a perpetual auction of taxations where Colony ſhould bid againſt Colony, all of them uninformed what ranſom would redeem their lives, and thus to extort from us, at the point of the bayonet, the unknown ſums that ſhould be ſufficient to gratify, if poſſible to gratify, miniſterial

niſterial rapacity, with the miſerable indulgence left to us of raiſing, in our own mode, the preſcribed tribute. What terms more rigid and humiliating could have been dictated by remorſeleſs victors to conquered enemies? In our circumſtances to accept them would be to deſerve them.

Soon after the intelligence of theſe proceedings arrived on this continent, General Gage, who in the courſe of the laſt year, had taken poſſeſſion of the town of Boſton, in the province of Maſſachuſett's-Bay, and ſtill occupied it as a garriſon, on the 19th day of April, ſent out from that place a large detachment of his army, who made an unprovoked aſſault on the inhabitants of the ſaid province, at the town of Lexington, as appears by the affidavits of a great number of perſons, ſome of whom were officers and ſoldiers of that detachment, murdered eight of the inhabitants, and wounded many others. From thence the troops proceeded in warlike array to the town of Concord, where they ſet upon another party of the inhabitants of the ſame province, killing ſeveral and wounding more, until compelled to retreat by the country people ſuddenly aſſembled to repel this cruel aggreſſion. Hoſtilities, thus commenced by the Britiſh troops, have been ſince proſecuted by them without regard to faith or reputation.---The inhabitants of Boſton being confined within that town by the General their Governor, and having, in order to procure their diſmiſſion, entered into a treaty with him, it was ſtipulated that the ſaid inhabitants having depoſited their arms

with

with their own magiſtrates, ſhould have liberty to depart, taking with them their other effects. They accordingly delivered up their arms, but in open violation of honor, in defiance of the obligation of treaties, which even ſavage nations eſteemed ſacred, the Governor ordered the arms depoſited as aforeſaid, that they might be preſerved for their owners, to be ſeized by a body of ſoldiers; detained the greateſt part of the inhabitants in the town, and compelled the few who were permitted to retire, to leave their moſt valuable effects behind.

By this perfidy, wives are ſeparated from their huſbands, children from their parents, the aged and the ſick from their relations and friends, who wiſh to attend and comfort them; and thoſe who have been uſed to live in plenty, and even elegance, are reduced to deplorable diſtreſs.

The General further emulating his miniſterial maſters, by a proclamation bearing date on the 12th day of June, after venting the groſſeſt falſehoods and calumnies againſt the good people of theſe Colonies, proceeds to "declare them "all either by name or deſcription to be rebels "and traitors, to ſuperſede the courſe of the "common law, and inſtead thereof to publiſh "and order the uſe and exerciſe of the law "martial."---His troops have butchered our countrymen; have wantonly burnt Charleſtown, beſides a conſiderable number of houſes in other places; our ſhips and veſſels are ſeized; the neceſſary ſupplies of proviſions are intercepted, and he is exerting his utmoſt power to ſpread deſtruction and devaſtation around him.

We have received certain intelligence, that General Carleton, the Governor of Canada, is inſtigating the people of that province and the Indians to fall upon us; and we have but too much reaſon to apprehend; that ſchemes have been formed to excite domeſtic enemies againſt us. In brief, a part of theſe colonies now feel, and all of them are ſure of feeling, as far as the vengeance of adminiſtration can inflict them, the complicated calamities of fire, ſword and famine.—We are reduced to the alternative of chuſing an unconditional ſubmiſſion to the tyranny of irritated miniſters, or reſiſtance by force---The latter is our choice---We have counted the coſt of this conteſt, and find nothing ſo dreadful as voluntary ſlavery.---Honor, juſtice, and humanity forbid us tamely to ſurrender that freedom which we received from our gallant anceſtors, and which our innocent poſterity have a right to receive from us. We cannot endure the infamy and guilt of reſigning ſucceeding generations to that wretchedneſs which inevitably awaits them, if we baſely entail hereditary bondage upon them.

Our cauſe is juſt. Our union is perfect. Our internal reſources are great, and if neceſſary, foreign aſſiſtance is undoubtedly attainable.---We gratefully acknowledge, as ſignal inſtances of the Divine favour towards us, that his Providence would not permit us to be called into this ſevere controverſy, until we were grown up to our preſent ſtrength, had been previouſly exerciſed in warlike operation, and poſſeſſed of the means of defending ourſelves.---With hearts

fortified

fortified with theſe animating reflections, we moſt ſolemnly, before GOD and the world DECLARE, that, exerting the utmoſt energy of thoſe powers, which our beneficient Creator hath graciouſly beſtowed upon us, the arms we have been compelled by our enemies to aſſume, we will, in defiance of every hazard, with unabating firmneſs and perſeverance, employ for the preſervation of our liberties, being with one mind reſolved, to die Free-men rather than to live Slaves.

LEST this declaration ſhould diſquiet the minds of our friends and fellow ſubjects in any part of the empire, we aſſure them that we mean not to diſſolve that Union which has ſo long and ſo happily ſubſiſted between us, and which we ſincerely wiſh to ſee reſtored.---Neceſſity has not yet driven us into that deſperate meaſure, or induced us to excite any other nation to war againſt them.---We have not raiſed armies with ambitious deſigns of ſeparating from Great-Britain, and eſtabliſhing independent ſtates.---We fight not for glory or for conqueſt. We exhibit to mankind the remarkable ſpectacle of a people attacked by unprovoked enemies, without any imputation, or even ſuſpicion, of offence. They boaſt of their privileges and civilization, and yet proffer no milder conditions than ſervitude or death.---

IN our own native land, in defence of the freedom that is our birth-right, and which we ever enjoyed till the late violation of it---for the protection of our property, acquired ſolely by the

the honeſt induſtry of our fore-fathers and ourſelves, againſt violence actually offered, we have taken up arms. We ſhall lay them down when hoſtilities ſhall ceaſe on the part of the aggreſſors, and all danger of their being renewed ſhall be removed, and not before.

WITH an humble confidence in the mercies of the ſupreme and impartial Judge and Ruler of the Univerſe, we moſt devoutly implore his divine goodneſs to protect us happily through this great conflict, to diſpoſe our adverſaries to reconciliation on reaſonable terms, and thereby to relieve the empire from the calamities of civil war.

On a motion made, Reſolved, THAT a letter be prepared to the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Livery of the city of London, expreſſing the thanks of this Congreſs, for their virtuous and ſpirited oppoſition to the oppreſſive and ruinous ſyſtem of Colony Adminiſtration adopted by the Britiſh Miniſtry.

Ordered, THAT the Committee appointed to draught an Addreſs to the people of Great-Britain, do prepare this.

Adjourned till to-morrow at 9 o'clock.

FRIDAY, *July* 7, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

THE Committee to whom the Addreſs to the people of Great-Britain was re-committed, bro't in

in the ſame, which being again read and debated, the further conſideration thereof was deferred till to-morrow.

Adjourned till to-morrow at 9 o'clock.

SATURDAY, *July* 8, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

THE petition to the King being engroſſed, was compared at the table and ſigned by the Members preſent.

To the KING's *Moſt Excellent* MAJESTY.

Moſt gracious Sovereign,

WE your Majeſty's faithful ſubjects of the Colonies of New-Hampſhire, Maſſachuſets Bay, Rhode Iſland, and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New York, New-Jerſey, Pennſylvania, the Counties of New-Caſtle, Kent, and Suſſex on Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North-Carolina, and South Carolina, in behalf of ourſelves, and the inhabitants of theſe Colonies, who have deputed us to repreſent them in General Congreſs, entreat your Majeſty's gracious attention to this our humble petition.

THE union between our Mother Country and theſe Colonies, and the ſpirit of mild and juſt government, produced benefits ſo remarkably important, and afforded ſuch an aſſurance of their

their permanency and encreaſe, that the wonder and envy of other nations were excited, while they beheld Great-Britain riſing to a power the moſt extraordinary, the world had ever known.

Her rivals, obſerving that there was no probability of this happy connexion being broken by civil diſſentions, and apprehending its future effects, if left any longer undiſturbed, reſolved to prevent her receiving ſuch continual and formidable acceſſions of wealth and ſtrength, by checking the growth of thoſe ſettlements from which they were to be derived.

In the proſecution of this attempt, events ſo unfavourable to the deſign took place, that every friend to the intereſt of Great-Britain and theſe Colonies, entertained pleaſing and reaſonable expectations of ſeeing an additional force and exertion immediately given to the operations of the union hitherto experienced, by an enlargement of the dominions of the crown, and the removal of ancient and warlike enemies to a greater diſtance.

At the concluſion therefore of the late war, the moſt glorious and advantageous that ever had been carried on by Britiſh arms, your loyal Coloniſts, having contributed to its ſucceſs, by ſuch repeated and ſtrenuous exertions, as frequently procured them the diſtinguiſhed approbation of your Majeſty, of the late King, and of Parliament, doubted not, but that they ſhould be permitted, with the reſt of the empire, to ſhare in the bleſſings of peace, and the emoluments of victory and conqueſt.

While

While these recent and honorable acknowledgements of their merits remained on record in the journals and acts of that august legislature, the Parliament, undefaced by the imputation or even the suspicion of any offence, they were alarmed by a new system of statutes and regulations adopted for the administration of the Colonies, that filled their minds with the most painful fears and jealousies; and, to their inexpressible astonishment, perceived the danger of a foreign quarrel quickly succeeded by domestic danger, in their judgment of a more dreadful kind.

Nor were these anxieties alleviated by any tendency in this system to promote the welfare of their Mother Country. For though its effects were more immediately felt by them, yet its influence appeared to be injurious to the commerce and prosperity of Great-Britain.

We shall decline the ungrateful task of describing the irksome variety of artifices, practised by many of your Majesty's ministers, the delusive pretences, fruitless terrors, and unavailing severities, that have from time to time been dealt out by them, in their attempts to execute this impolitic plan, or of tracing through a series of years past the progress of the unhappy differences between Great-Britain and these Colonies, that have flowed from this fatal source.

Your Majesty's ministers, persevering in their measures, and proceeding to open hostilities for enforcing them, have compelled us to

arm in our own defence, and have engaged us in a controverſy ſo peculiarly abhorrent to the affections of your ſtill faithful Coloniſts, that when we conſider whom we muſt oppoſe in this conteſt, and if it continues, what may be the conſequences, our own particular misfortunes are accounted by us only as parts of our diſtreſs.

KNOWING to what violent reſentments and incurable animoſities, civil diſcords are apt to exaſperate and inflame the contending parties; we think ourſelves required by indiſpenſible obligations to Almighty God, to your Majeſty, to our fellow-ſubjects, and to ourſelves, immediately to uſe all the means in our power, not incompatible with our ſafety, for ſtopping the further effuſion of blood, and for averting the impending calamities that threaten the Britiſh empire.

THUS called upon to addreſs your Majeſty on affairs of ſuch moment to America, and probably to all your dominions, we are earneſtly deſirous of performing this office, with the utmoſt deference for your Majeſty; and we therefore pray, that your Majeſty's royal magnanimity and benevolence may make the moſt favourable conſtructions of our expreſſions on ſo uncommon an occaſion. Could we repreſent, in their full force, the ſentiments, that agitate the minds of us your dutiful ſubjects, we are perſuaded, your Majeſty would aſcribe any ſeeming deviation from reverence in our language, and even in our conduct, not to any reprehenſible intention, but to the impoſſibility of reconciling the

uſual

uſual appearances of reſpect with a juſt attention to our own preſervation againſt thoſe artful and cruel enemies, who abuſe your royal confidence and authority, for the purpoſe of effecting our deſtruction.

ATTACHED to your Majeſty's perſon, family, and government, with all devotion that principle and affection can inſpire, connected with Great Britain by the ſtrongeſt ties that can unite ſocieties, and deploring every event that tends in any degree to weaken them, we ſolemnly aſſure your Majeſty, that we not only moſt ardently deſire the former harmony between her and theſe Colonies may be reſtored, but that a concord may be eſtabliſhed between them upon ſo firm a baſis as to perpetuate its bleſſings uninterrupted by any future diſſentions to ſucceeding generations in both countries, and to tranſmit your Majeſty's name to poſterity, adorned with that ſignal and laſting glory, that has attended the memory of thoſe illuſtrious perſonages, whoſe virtues and abilities have extricated ſtates from dangerous convulſions, and, by ſecuring happineſs to others, have erected the moſt noble and durable monuments to their own fame.

WE beg leave farther to aſſure your Majeſty, that notwithſtanding the ſufferings of your loyal Coloniſts, during the courſe of this preſent controverſy, our breaſts retain too tender a regard for the kingdom from which we derive our origin, to requeſt ſuch a reconciliation as might in any manner be inconſiſtent with her dignity or her welfare. Theſe, related as we are to her,

honor and duty as well as inclination induce us to ſupport and advance; and the apprehenſions, that now oppreſs our hearts with unſpeakable grief, being once removed, your Majeſty will find your faithful ſubjects on this continent ready and willing at all times, as they have ever been, with their lives and fortunes, to aſſert and maintain the rights and intereſts of your Majeſty, and of our mother country.

We therefore beſeech your Majeſty, that your royal authority and influence may be graciouſly interpoſed to procure us relief from our afflicting fears and jealouſies, occaſioned by the ſyſtem before mentioned, and to ſettle peace through every part of your dominions, with all humility ſubmitting to your Majeſty's wiſe conſideration, whether it may not be expedient for facilitating thoſe important purpoſes, that your Majeſty be pleaſed to direct ſome mode, by which the united applications of your faithful Coloniſts to the Throne, in purſuance of their Common Councils, may be improved into a happy and permanent reconciliation; and that in the mean time meaſures may be taken for preventing the further deſtruction of the lives of your Majeſty's ſubjects; and that ſuch ſtatutes as more immediately diſtreſs any of your Majeſty's Colonies may be repealed.

For by ſuch arrangements as your Majeſty's wiſdom can form for collecting the united ſenſe of your American people, we are convinced, your Majeſty would receive ſuch ſatisfactory proofs of the diſpoſition of the Coloniſts towards

their

their ſovereign and the parent ſtate, that the wiſh for opportunity would ſoon be reſtored to them, of evincing the ſincerity of their profeſſions, by every teſtimony of devotion becoming the moſt dutiful ſubjects and the moſt affectionate Coloniſts.

That your Majeſty may enjoy a long and proſperous reign, and that your deſcendants may govern your dominions, with honor to themſelves and happineſs to their ſubjects, is our ſincere prayer.

The Committee appointed to prepare a letter to the Lord Mayor, &c. reported the ſame, which was read.

On motion, Reſolved, That the ſame Committee prepare a letter to Richard Penn, Eſq; and the Colony Agents by name in England.

The Congreſs then reſumed the conſideration of the addreſs to the inhabitants of Great-Britain, which being debated by paragraphs, was agreed to as follows:

The Twelve United Colonies by their Delegates in Congreſs, to the Inhabitants of Great-Britain.

Friends, Countrymen, and Brethren!

By theſe, and by every other appellation, that may deſignate the ties, which bind US to each other, we entreat your ſerious attention to this our ſecond attempt to prevent their diſſolution.

lution. Remembrance of former friendſhips, pride in the glorious atchievements of our common anceſtors and affection for the heirs of their virtues, have hitherto preſerved our mutual connection; but when that friendſhip is violated by the groſſeſt injuries; when the pride of anceſtry becomes our reproach, and we are no otherwiſe allied than as tyrants and ſlaves; when reduced to the melancholy alternative of renouncing your favor, or our Freedom; can we heſitate about the choice? Let the ſpirit of Britons determine.

In a former Addreſs, we aſſerted our Rights and ſtated the injuries we had then received. We hoped, that the mention of our wrongs would have rouſed that honeſt indignation, which has ſlept too long for your honor, or the welfare of the empire. But we have not been permitted to entertain this pleaſing expectation. Every day brought an accumulation of injuries, and the invention of the miniſtry has been conſtantly exerciſed, in adding to the calamities of your American Brethren.

After the moſt valuable right of legiſlation was infringed; when the powers, aſſumed by your parliament, in which we are not repreſented, and from our local and other circumſtances cannot properly be repreſented, rendered our property precarious; after being denied that mode of trial, to which we have long been indebted for the ſafety of our Perſons and the preſervation of our Liberties; after being in many inſtances diveſted of thoſe laws, which were

tranſmitted

tranſmitted to US by our common Anceſtors, and ſubjected to an arbitrary code, compiled under the auſpices of Roman tyrants; after thoſe charters, which encouraged our predeceſſors to brave death and danger in every ſhape, on unknown ſeas, in deſarts unexplored, amidſt barbarous and inhoſpitable nations, were annulled; when, without the form of trial, without a public acculation, whole colonies were condemned; their trade deſtroyed, their inhabitants impoveriſhed; when ſoldiers were encouraged to embrue their hands in the blood of Americans, by offers of impunity; when new modes of trial were inſtituted for the ruin of the accuſed, where the charge carried with it the horrors of conviction; when a deſpotic government was eſtabliſhed in a neighbouring province, and its limits extended to every of our frontiers; we little imagined that any thing could be added to this black catalogue of unprovoked injuries: but we have unhappily been deceived; and the late meaſures of the Britiſh miniſtry fully convince us, that their object is the reduction of theſe colonies to ſlavery and ruin.

To confirm this aſſertion, let us recal your attention to the affairs of America, ſince our laſt addreſs. Let us combat the calumnies of our enemies; and let us warn you of the dangers that threaten you, in our deſtruction. Many of your fellow ſubjects, whoſe ſituation deprived them of other ſupport, drew their maintainance from the ſea; but the deprivation of our Liberty being inſufficient to ſatisfy the reſentment of our enemies, the horrors of famine were ſuper-

added,

added, and a Britiſh Parliament, who, in better times, were the protectors of innocence and the patrons of humanity, have, without diſtinction of age or ſex, robbed thouſands of the food, which they were accuſtomed to draw from that inexhauſtable ſource, placed in their neighbourhood by the benevolent Creator.

Another act of your legiſlature ſhuts our ports and prohibits our trade with any but thoſe States, from whom the great law of ſelf-preſervation renders it abſolutely neceſſary we ſhould at preſent withhold our commerce. But this act (whatever may have been its deſign) we conſider rather as injurious to your opulence, than our intereſt. All our commerce terminates with you; and the wealth, we procure from other nations, is ſoon exchanged for your ſuperfluities. Our remittances muſt then ceaſe with our trade; and our refinements with our affluence. We truſt however, that laws, which deprive us of every bleſſing, but a ſoil that teems with the neceſſaries of life and that Liberty which renders the enjoyment of them ſecure, will not relax our vigour in their defence.

We might here obſerve on the cruelty and inconſiſtency of thoſe, who, while they publicly brand us with reproachful and unworthy epithets, endeavour to deprive us of the means of defence, by their interpoſition with foreign powers, and to deliver us to the lawleſs ravages of a mercileſs ſoldiery. But happily we are not without reſources; and though the timid and humiliating applications of a Britiſh Miniſtry

ſhould

ſhould prevail with foreign nations, yet induſtry, prompted by neceſſity, will not leave us without the neceſſary ſupplies.

We could wiſh to go no further, and, not to wound the ear of humanity, leave untold thoſe rigorous acts of oppreſſion, which are daily exerciſed in the town of Boſton, did we not hope, that by diſclaiming their deeds and puniſhing the perpetrators, you would ſhortly vindicate the honor of the Britiſh name and re-eſtabliſh the violated laws of juſtice.

That once populous, flouriſhing and commercial town is now garriſoned by an army ſent, not to protect, but to enſlave its inhabitants.---The civil government is overturned, and a military deſpotiſm erected upon its ruins. Without law, without right, powers are aſſumed unknown to the conſtitution. Private property is unjuſtly invaded. The inhabitants, daily ſubjected to the licentiouſneſs of the ſoldiery, are forbid to remove in defiance of their natural rights, in violation of the moſt ſolemn compacts. Or if, after long and weariſome ſolicitation, a paſs is procured, their effects are detained, and even thoſe who are moſt favoured, have no alternative but poverty or ſlavery. The diſtreſs of many thouſand people, wantonly deprived of the neceſſaries of life, is a ſubject, on which we would not wiſh to enlarge.

Yet we cannot but obſerve, that a Britiſh fleet (unjuſtified even by acts of your legiſlature) are daily employed in ruining our commerce,

ſeizing our ſhips, and depriving whole communities of their daily bread. Nor will a regard for your honor permit us to be ſilent, while Britiſh troops ſully your glory, by actions, which the moſt inveterate enmity will not palliate among civilized nations, the wanton and unneceſſary deſtruction of Charleſtown, a large ancient, and once populous town, juſt before deſerted by its inhabitants, who had fled to avoid the fury of your ſoldiery.

If you ſtill retain thoſe ſentiments of compaſſion, by which Britons have ever been diſtinguiſhed; if the humanity, which tempered the valour of our common anceſtors, has not degenerated into cruelty, you will lament the miſeries of their deſcendants.

To what are we to attribute this treatment? If to any ſecret principle of the conſtitution, let it be mentioned; let us learn, that the government, we have long revered, is not without its defects, and that while it gives freedom to a part, it neceſſarily enſlaves the remainder of the empire. If ſuch a principle exiſts; why for ages has it ceaſed to operate? Why at this time is it called into action? Can no reaſon be aſſigned for this conduct? Or muſt it be reſolved into the wanton exerciſe of arbitrary power? And ſhall the deſcendants of Britons tamely ſubmit to this—No Sirs! We never will, while we revere the memory of our gallant and virtuous anceſtors, we never can ſurrender thoſe glorious privileges, for which they fought, bled and conquered. Admit that your fleets could deſtroy

ſtroy our towns, and ravage our ſea-coaſts, theſe are inconſiderable objects, things of no moment to men, whoſe boſoms glow with the ardor of Liberty. We can retire beyond the reach of your navy and, without any ſenſible diminution of the neceſſaries of life, enjoy a luxury, which from that period you will want; THE LUXURY OF BEING FREE.

We know the force of your arms, and was it called forth in the cauſe of juſtice and your country, we might dread the exertion; but will Britons fight under the banners of tyranny? Will they counteract the labours, and diſgrace the victories of their anceſtors? Will they forge chains for their poſterity? If they deſcend to this unworthy taſk, will their ſwords retain their edge, their arms their accuſtomed vigor? Britons can never become the inſtruments of oppreſſion, till they loſe the ſpirit of freedom, by which alone they are invincible.

Our enemies charge us with ſedition. In what does it conſiſt? In our refuſal to ſubmit to unwarantable acts of injuſtice and cruelty? If ſo, ſhew us a period in your hiſtory, in which you have not been equally ſeditious?

We are accuſed of aiming at Independence but how is this accuſation ſupported? By the allegations of your Miniſters, not by our actions. Abuſed, inſulted, and contemned, what ſtep have we purſued to obtain redreſs? We have carried our dutiful petitions to the Throne. We have applied to your juſtice for relief. We

have retrenched our luxury and withheld our trade.

THE advantages of our commerce were designed as a compenſation for your protection: When you ceaſed to protect, for what were we to compenſate?

WHAT has been the ſucceſs of our endeavours? The clemency of our ſovereign is unhappily diverted; our petitions are treated with indignity; our prayers anſwered by inſults. Our application to you remains unnoticed and leaves us the melancholy apprehenſion, of your wanting either the will, or the power, to aſſiſt us.

EVEN under theſe circumſtances, what meaſures have we taken that betray a deſire of Independence? Have we called in the aid of thoſe foreign powers, who are the rivals of your grandeur? When your troops were few and defenceleſs, did we take advantage of their diſtreſs and expel them our towns? Or have we permitted them to fortify, to receive new aid and to acquire additional ſtrength?

LET not *your* enemies and *ours* perſuade you, that in this we were influenced by fear or any other unworthy motive. The lives of Britons are ſtill dear to us. They are the Children of our Parents, and an uninterrupted intercourſe of mutual benefits had knit the bonds of friendſhip. When hoſtilities were commenced, when on a late occaſion we were wantonly attacked by your troops, though we repelled their aſſaults

and

and returned their blows; yet we lamented the wounds they obliged us to give; nor have we yet learned to rejoice at a victory over Engliſhmen.

As we wiſh not to colour our actions, or diſguiſe our thoughts; we ſhall, in the ſimple language of truth, avow the meaſures we have purſued, the motives, upon which we have acted, and our future deſigns.

When our late petition to the throne produced no other effect than freſh injuries, and votes of your legiſlature, calculated to juſtify every ſeverity; when your fleets and your armies were prepared to wreſt from us our property, to rob us of our liberties or our lives; when the hoſtile attempts of General Gage evinced his deſigns; we levied armies for our ſecurity and defence. When the powers, veſted in the governor of Canada, gave us reaſon to apprehend danger from that quarter; and we had frequent intimations, that a cruel and ſavage enemy was to be let looſe upon the defenceleſs inhabitants of our frontiers; we took ſuch meaſures as prudence dictated, as neceſſity will juſtify. We poſſeſſed ourſelves of Crown-Point and Ticonderoga. Yet give us leave moſt ſolemnly to aſſure you, that we have not yet loſt ſight of the object we have ever had in view, a reconciliation with you on conſtitutional principles, and a reſtoration of that friendly intercourſe, which, to the advantage of both, we till lately maintained.

THE inhabitants of this country apply themſelves chiefly to agriculture and commerce. As their faſhions and manners are ſimilar to yours, your markets muſt afford them the conveniences and luxuries, for which they exchange the produce of their labours. The wealth of this extended continent centers with you; and our trade is ſo regulated as to be ſubſervient only to your intereſt. You are too reaſonable to expect, that by taxes (in addition to this) we ſhould contribute to your expence, to believe after diverting the fountain that the ſtreams can flow with unabated force.

IT has been ſaid, that we refuſe to ſubmit to the reſtrictions on our commerce From whence is this inference drawn? Not from our words, we having repeatedly declared the contrary; and we again profeſs our ſubmiſſion to the ſeveral acts of trade and navigation paſſed before the year 1763, truſting nevertheleſs in the equity and juſtice of Parliament, that ſuch of them as, upon cool and impartial conſideration, ſhall appear to have impoſed unneceſſary or grievous reſtrictions, will, at ſome happier period, be repealed or altered. And we cheerfully conſent to the operation of ſuch acts of the Britiſh Parliament as ſhall be reſtrained to the regulation of our external commerce, for the purpoſe of ſecuring the commercial advantages of the whole empire to the Mother-Country, and the commercial benefits of its reſpective members, excluding every idea of taxation internal or external, for raiſing a revenue on the ſubjects in America without their conſent.

IT

IT is alledged that we contribute nothing to the common defence. To this we anſwer, that the advantages, which Great-Britain receives from the monopoly of our trade, far exceed our proportion of the expence neceſſary for that purpoſe. But ſhould theſe advantages be inadequate thereto, let the reſtrictions on our trade be removed, and we will cheerfully contribute ſuch proportion when conſtitutionally required.

IT is a fundamental principle of the Britiſh conſtitution, that every man ſhould have at leaſt a repreſentative ſhare in the formation of thoſe laws, by which he is bound. Were it otherwiſe, the regulation of our internal police by a Britiſh Parliament, who are and ever will be unacquainted with our local circumſtances, muſt be always inconvenient, and frequently oppreſſive: working our wrong, without yielding any poſſible advantage to you.

A PLAN of accommodation (as it has been abſurdly called) has been propoſed by your Miniſters to our reſpective Aſſemblies. Were this propoſal free from every other objection, but that which ariſes from the time of the offer, it would not be unexceptionable. Can men deliberate with the bayonet at their breaſt? Can they treat with freedom, while their towns are ſacked; when daily inſtances of injuſtice and oppreſſion diſturb the ſlower operations of reaſon?

IF this propoſal is really ſuch as you would offer and we accept, why was it delayed till the nation was put to uſeleſs expence, and we were

reduced

reduced to our preſent melancholy ſituation? If it holds forth nothing, why was it propoſed? Unleſs indeed to deceive you into a belief, that we were unwilling to liſten to any terms of accommodation? But what is ſubmitted to our conſideration? We contend for the diſpoſal of our property. We are told that our demand is unreaſonable, that our Aſſemblies may indeed collect our money, but that they muſt at the ſame time offer; not what your exigences or ours may require; but ſo much as ſhall be deemed ſufficient to ſatisfy the deſires of a Miniſter and enable him to provide for favorites and dependants. A recurrence to your own treaſury will convince you how little of the money already extorted from us has been applied to the relief of your burthens. To ſuppoſe that we would thus graſp the ſhadow, and give up the ſubſtance is adding inſult to injuries.

We have nevertheleſs again preſented an humble and dutiful Petition to our Sovereign; and to remove every imputation of obſtinacy, have requeſted his Majeſty to direct ſome mode, by which the united applications of his faithful Coloniſts may be improved into a happy and permanent reconciliation. We are willing to treat on ſuch terms as can alone render an accommodation laſting, and we flatter ourſelves, that our pacific endeavours will be attended with a removal of miniſterial troops, and a repeal of thoſe laws, of the operation of which we complain, on the one part, and a diſbanding of of our army and a diſſolution of our commercial aſſociations, on the other.

Yet

YET conclude not from this, that we propoſe to ſurrender our property into the hands of your miniſtry, or veſt your parliament with a power which may terminate in our deſtruction. The great bulwarks of our conſtitution we have deſired to maintain by every temperate, by every peaceable means; but your miniſters (equal foes to Britiſh and American freedom) have added to their former oppreſſions an attempt to reduce us by the ſword to a baſe and abject ſubmiſſion. On the ſword therefore we are compelled to rely for protection. Should victory declare in your favour, yet men trained to arms from their infancy and animated by the love of liberty will afford neither a cheap or eaſy conqueſt. Of this at leaſt we are aſſured, that our ſtruggle will be glorious, our ſucceſs certain, ſince even in death we ſhall find that freedom, which in life you forbid us to enjoy.

LET us now aſk what advantages are to attend our reduction? The trade of a ruined and deſolate country is always inconſiderable, its revenue trifling; the expence of ſubjecting and retaining it in ſubjection certain and inevitable. What then remains but the gratification of an ill judged pride, or the hope of rendering us ſubſervient to deſigns on your Liberty.

SOLDIERS, who have ſheathed their ſwords in the bowels of their American brethren, will not draw them with more reluctance againſt you. When too late you may lament the loſs of that freedom, which we exhort you, while ſtill in your power, to preſerve.

On the other hand, ſhould you prove unſucceſsful; ſhould that connection, which we moſt ardently wiſh to maintain, be diſſolved; ſhould your Miniſters exhauſt your treaſures and waſte the blood of your countrymen in vain attempts on our Liberty; do they not deliver you, weak and defenceleſs, to your natural enemies.

Since then your *Liberty* muſt be the price of your victories; your ruin, of your defeat:—What blind fatality can urge you to a purſuit deſtructive of all that Britons hold dear?

If you have no regard to the connection that has for ages ſubſiſted between us; if you have forgot the wounds we received fighting by your ſide, for the extention of the empire; if our commerce is not an object below your conſideration; if juſtice and humanity have loſt their influence on your hearts; ſtill motives are not wanting, to excite your indignation at the meaſures now purſued: Your Wealth, your Honor, your Liberty are at ſtake.

Notwithstanding the diſtreſs to which we are reduced, we ſometimes forget our own afflictions, to anticipate and ſympathize in yours. We grieve, that raſh and inconſiderate councils ſhould precipitate the deſtruction of an empire, which has been the envy and admiration of ages, and call God to witneſs! that we would part with our property, endanger our lives, and ſacrifice every thing, but Liberty, to redeem you from ruin.

A cloud

A CLOUD hangs over your heads and ours; e'er this reaches you, it may probably burst upon us, let us then (before the remembrance of former kindneſs is obliterated) once more repeat thoſe appellations which are ever grateful in our ears. Let us entreat Heaven to avert our ruin, and the deſtruction that threatens our friends, brethren, and countrymen, on the other ſide of the Atlantic.

Ordered, THAT the above Addreſs be immediately printed, and ſent by Mr. Penn to England.

THE letter to the Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Livery of London, being again read and debated, was agreed to as follows:

My LORD,

PERMIT the Delegates of the people of twelve ancient Colonies, to pay your Lordſhip and the very reſpectable body of which you are head, the juſt tribute of gratitude and thanks for the virtuous and unſolicited reſentment you have ſhown to the violated rights of a free people. The city of London, my Lord, having, in all ages, approved itſelf the patron of Liberty and the ſupport of juſt government, againſt lawleſs tyranny and oppreſſion, cannot fail to make us deeply ſenſible of the powerful aid, our cauſe muſt receive from ſuch advocates. A cauſe, my Lord, worthy the ſupport of the firſt city in the world, as it involves the fate of a great Continent, and threatens to ſhake the foundations of a flouriſhing, and until lately, a happy empire.

North-America, my Lord, wiſhes moſt ardently for a laſting connection with Great Britain on terms of juſt and equal Liberty; leſs than which generous minds will not offer, nor brave and free ones be willing to receive.

A cruel war has at length been opened againſt us, and whilſt we prepare to defend ourſelves like the deſcendants of Britons, we ſtill hope that the mediation of wiſe and good citizens, will at length prevail over deſpotiſm, and reſtore harmony and peace, on permanent principles, to an oppreſſed and divided empire.

We have the honor to be,
My Lord,
With great eſteem,
Your Lordſhip's
Faithful friends and fellow ſubjects.

Ordered, THAT the above be tranſcribed, and then ſigned by the Preſident.

THE Committee appointed to prepare a letter to Mr. Penn and the Colony Agents, reported a draught, which was read and approved as follows:

Gentlemen,

THE perſeverence of the Britiſh Miniſtry, in their unjuſt and cruel ſyſtem of Colony Adminiſtration, has occaſioned the meeting of another Congreſs.

We have again appealed to the juſtice of our Sovereign for protection againſt the deſtruction, which

which his Miniſters meditate for his American ſubjects. This petition to his Majeſty, you will pleaſe, Gentlemen, to preſent to the King with all convenient expedition, after which we deſire it may be given to the public. We likewiſe ſend you our ſecond application to the equity and intereſt of our fellow ſubjects in Great Britain, and alſo a Declaration, ſetting forth the cauſes of our taking up arms: Both which we wiſh may be immediately put to preſs, and communicated as univerſally as poſſible.

The Congreſs entertain the higheſt ſenſe of the wiſe and worthy interpoſition of the Lord Mayor and Livery of London, in favour of injured America. They have expreſſed this their ſenſe in a letter to his Lordſhip and the Livery, which we deſire may be preſented in the manner moſt agreeable to that reſpectable body.

You will oblige us, Gentlemen, by giving the moſt early information to the Congreſs, and to the ſpeakers of our reſpective Aſſemblies of your proceeding in this buſineſs, and ſuch further intelligence as you may judge to be of importance to America in this great conteſt

We are, with great regard,
Gentlemen, &c.

Ordered, THAT the above be fairly tranſcribed and then ſigned by the Preſident, and by him ſent under cover, together with the petition to the King and addreſs to the inhabitants of Great-Britain, and the letter to the Lord Mayor, &c. to Richard Penn, Eſq; and that the Preſident requeſt Mr. Penn, in behalf of the Congreſs, to

join

join with the Colony Agents in preſenting the petition to the King.

Adjourned till Monday at 9 o'clock.

MONDAY, *July* 10, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

INFORMATION being given, that there was a Gentleman in town well acquainted with the ſtate and diſpoſition of the Indians, a motion was made for introducing him, and he was accordingly introduced and examined.

THE Committee, appointed to deviſe ways and means for putting the militia in a proper ſtate for the defence of America, brought in their report, which was read, and after debate referred for further conſideration.

Adjourned till to-morrow at 9 o'clock.

TUESDAY, *July* 11, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

THE report of the Committee on Indian affairs was taken up and read, and after ſome debate, the ſame was deferred till to-morrow.

ON information, that there were two companies of rifle-men raiſed in Lancaſter inſtead of one.

Reſolved, THAT both be taken into the Continental ſervice.

" AN

"AN addreſs of Deputies from the different pariſhes of the Iſlands of Bermuda" to the Congreſs was preſented and read.

Adjourned till to-morrow at 9 o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, *July* 12, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

A GENTLEMAN from the province of Quebec was introduced and examined.

LETTERS from Governor Cooke and General Ward were read.

THE Congreſs then reſumed the conſideration of the report of the Committee on Indian affairs, and the ſame being gone through, was agreed to as follows:

THAT the ſecuring and preſerving the friendſhip of the Indian nations appears to be a ſubject of the utmoſt moment to theſe Colonies.

THAT there is too much reaſon to apprehend, that Adminiſtration will ſpare no pains to excite the ſeveral nations of Indians to take up arms againſt theſe Colonies; and that it becomes us to be very active and vigilant in exerting every prudent means to ſtrengthen and confirm the friendly diſpoſition towards theſe Colonies, which has long prevailed among the northern tribes, and which has been lately manifeſted by ſome of thoſe to the ſouthward.

As

As the Indians depend on the Coloniſts for for arms, ammunition and cloathing, which are become neceſſary to their ſubſiſtance, that Commiſſioners be appointed by this Congreſs, to ſuperintend Indian affairs in behalf of theſe Colonies.

THAT there be three departments of Indians, the northern, middle and ſouthern. The northern to extend ſo far ſouth as to include the whole of the Indians known by the name of the Six Nations, and all the Indians northward of thoſe nations. The ſouthern department to extend ſo far north as to include the Cherokees, and all the Indians to that may be to the ſouthward of them. The middle to contain the Indian Nations that lie between the other two departments.

THAT five Commiſſioners be appointed for the ſouthern department.

THAT for each of the other two departments there be appointed three Commiſſioners.

THAT the Commiſſioners have power to treat with the Indians in their reſpective departments, in the name and on behalf of the United Colonies, in order to preſerve peace and friendſhip with the ſaid Indians, and to prevent their taking any part in the preſent commotions.

THAT the Commiſſioners for the ſouthern department receive from the Continental Treaſury the ſum of *ten thouſand* Dollars; the Commiſſioners for the middle and northern department

the

the ſum of *ſix thouſand ſix hundred and ſixty-ſix and two thirds* for each of their reſpective departments, for defraying the expence of treaties and preſents to the Indians.

THAT the Commiſſioners reſpectively have power to take to their aſſiſtance Gentlemen of influence among the Indians in whom they can confide, and to appoint agents, reſiding near or among the Indians, to watch the conduct of the ſuperintendants and their emiſſaries.

THAT in caſe the Commiſſioners for the reſpective diſtricts, or any one of them in either diſtrict, ſhall have ſatisfactory proof, that the King's ſuperintendants, their deputies or agents, or any other perſon whatſoever, are active in ſtirring up or inciting the Indians, or any of them, to become inimical to the American Colonies, ſuch Commiſſioner or Commiſſioners ought to cauſe ſuch ſuperintendants or other offender to be ſeized and kept in ſafe cuſtody until order ſhall be taken therein by a majority of the Commiſſioners of the diſtricts, where ſuch ſeizure is made, or by the Continental Congreſs, or a Committee of ſaid Congreſs, to whom ſuch ſeizure, with the cauſes of it, ſhall, as ſoon as poſſible after, be made known.

THAT the Commiſſioners ſhall exhibit fair accounts of the expenditure of all monies by them reſpectively to be received for the purpoſes aforeſaid, to every ſucceeding Continental Congreſs, or Committee of Congreſs, together with a general ſtate of Indian affairs in their ſeveral

departments, in order that the Colonies may be informed from time to time of every ſuch matter as may concern them to know and avail themſelves of, for the benefit of the common cauſe.

THAT as there is a Seminary for the inſtruction of Indian youth, which has been eſtabliſhed under the care of Doctor Wheelock, on Connecticut river; and as there are nine or ten Indian youths at that ſchool, chiefly from the tribes reſiding in Quebec: And as for want of a proper fund, there is danger that theſe youths may be ſent back to their friends, which will probably excite jealouſy and diſtruſt, and be attended with bad conſequences, the Commiſſioners for Indian affairs in the northern department be authoriſed to receive, out of the Continental Treaſury, a ſum not exceeding *five hundred* Dollars, to be applied by them for the ſupport of ſaid Indian youths.

On motion made, Reſolved, THAT a Committee of five be appointed to diviſe ways and means to protect the trade of theſe Colonies.

THE following were choſen, Mr. *Jay*, Mr. *Franklin*, Mr. *Gadſden*, Mr. *Deane*, and Mr. *Lee*.

Adjourned till to morrow at 8 o'clock.

THURSDAY, *July* 13, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

THE Committee appointed to prepare proper talks to the Indians, reported the ſame, which was agreed to as follows.

A SPEECH *to the Six Confederate Nations,* MOHAWKS, ONEIDAS, TUSCARORAS, ONONDAGAS, CAYUGAS, SENEKAS, *from the Twelve United Colonies, convened in Council at Philadelphia.*

Brothers, Sachems and Warriors,

WE, the Delegates from the Twelve United Provinces, viz. *New-Hampſhire, Maſſachuſett's-Bay, Rhode-Iſland, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jerſey, Pennſylvania,* The three Lower Counties of *Newcaſtle, Kent* and *Suſſex*, on Delaware, *Maryland, Virginia, North-Carolina*, and *South-Carolina*, now ſitting in General Congreſs at Philadelphia, ſend this Talk to you our Brothers. We are ſixty-five in number, choſen and appointed by the people throughout all theſe Provinces and Colonies, to meet and ſit together in one great Council, to conſult together for the common good of the land, and ſpeak and act for them.

BROTHERS, in our conſultation we have judged it proper and neceſſary to ſend you this Talk, as we are upon the ſame iſland, that you may be informed of the reaſons of this great Council, the ſituation of our civil conſtitution, and our diſpoſition towards you our Indian Brothers *of the Six Nations and their allies.*

(Three Strings, or a ſmall Belt.)

Brothers and Friends, now attend,

When our fathers croſſed the great water and came over to this land, the King of England gave them a Talk; aſſuring them that they and their children ſhould be his children, and that if they would leave their native country and make ſettlements, and live here, and buy, and ſell, and trade with their brethren beyond the water, they ſhould ſtill keep hold of the ſame covenant chain and enjoy peace—And it was covenanted, that the fields, houſes, goods and poſſeſſions which our fathers ſhould acquire, ſhould remain to them as their own, and be their children's forever, and at their ſole diſpoſal.

Trusting that this covenant ſhould never be broken, our fathers came a great diſtance beyond the great water, laid out their money here, built houſes, cleared fields, raiſed crops, and through their own labour and induſtry grew tall and ſtrong.

They have bought, ſold and traded with England according to agreement, ſending to them ſuch things as they wanted, and taking in exchange ſuch things as were wanted here.

The King of England and his people kept the way open for more than one hundred years, and by our trade became richer, and by a union with us, greater and ſtronger than the other Kings and people who live beyond the water.

All

ALL this time they lived in great friendſhip with us, and we with them; for we are brothers—one blood.

WHENEVER they were ſtruck, we inſtantly felt as though the blow had been given to us—their enemies were our enemies.

WHENEVER they went to war, we ſent our men to ſtand by their ſide and fight for them, and our money to help them and make them ſtrong.

THEY thanked us for our love and ſent us good Talks, and renewed their promiſe to be one people forever.

Brothers and Friends, opin a kind Ear!

WE will now tell you of the quarrel betwixt the Counſellors of King George and the Inhabitants and Colonies of America.

MANY of his Counſellors are proud and wicked men---They perſuade the King to break the covenant chain, and not to ſend us any more goods Talks. A conſiderable number have prevailed upon him to enter into a new covenant againſt us, and have torn aſunder and caſt behind their backs the good old covenant which their anceſtors and ours entered into and took ſtrong hold of.

THEY now tell us they will ſlip their hand into our pocket without aſking, as though it were

their

their own; and at their pleaſure they will take from us our Charters or written civil Conſtitution which we love as our lives---alſo our plantations our houſes and goods whenever they pleaſe, without aſking our leave.--- That our veſſels may go to *this* Iſland in the ſea, but to *this* or *that* particular Iſland we ſhall not trade any more.--- And in caſe of our non-compliance with theſe new orders, they ſhut up our harbours.

Brothers, this is our preſent ſituation---thus have many of the King's Counſellors and Servants dealt with us.---If we ſubmit, or comply with their demands, you can eaſily perceive to what ſtate we will be reduced.---If our people labour on the field, they will not know who ſhall enjoy the crop.---If they hunt in the woods, it will be uncertain who ſhall taſte of the meat or have the ſkins.---If they build houſes they will not know whether they may ſit round the fire, with their wives and children.---They cannot be ſure whether they ſhall be permitted to eat, drink, and wear the fruits of their own labour and induſtry.

Brothers and Friends of the Six Nations, attend,

We upon this Iſland have often ſpoke and intreated the King and his Servants the Counſellors, that peace and harmony might ſtill continue between us---that we cannot part with or looſe our hold of the old covenant chain which united our fathers and theirs---that we want to brighten this chain---and keep the way open as our fathers did;

did; that we want to live with them as brothers, labour, trade, travel abroad, eat and drink in peace. We have often aſked them to love us and live in ſuch friendſhip with us as their fathers did with ours.

We told them again that we judged we were exceedingly injured, that they might as well kill us, as take away our property and the neceſſaries of life.---We have aſked why they treat us thus?---What has become of our repeated addreſſes and ſupplications to them? Who hath ſhut the ears of the King to the cries of his children in America? No ſoft anſwer---no pleaſant voice from beyond the water has yet ſounded in our ears.

Brothers, thus ſtands the matter betwixt Old England and America. You Indians know how things are proportioned in a family---between the father and the ſon---the child carries a little pack---England we regard as the father ---this Iſland may be compared to the ſon.

The father has a numerous family---both at home and upon this Iſland.---He appoints a great number of Servants to aſſiſt him in the government of his family. In proceſs of time, ſome of his ſervants grow proud and ill-natured ---they were diſpleaſed to ſee the boy ſo alert and walk on ſo nimbly with his pack.---They tell the father and adviſe him to enlarge the child's pack ---they prevail--the pack is increaſed---the child takes it up again---as he thought it might be the father's pleaſure--ſpeaks but few words---

thoſe

thoſe very ſmall---for he was loth to offend the father. Thoſe proud and wicked ſervants finding they had prevailed, laughed to ſee the boy ſweat and ſtagger under his increaſed load. By and by, they apply to the father to double the boy's pack, becauſe they heard him complain---and without any reaſon ſaid they---he is a croſs child---correct him if he complains any more.---The boy intreats the father---addreſſes the great ſervants in a decent manner, that the pack might be lightened---he could not go any farther---humbly aſks, if the old fathers, in any of their records, had deſcribed ſuch a pack for the child---after all the tears and entreaties of the child---the pack is redoubled---the child ſtands a little, while ſtaggering under the weight---ready to fall every moment.---However he entreats the father once more, though ſo faint he could only liſp out his laſt humble ſupplication---waits a while---no voice returns.---The child concludes the father could not hear---thoſe proud ſervants had intercepted his ſupplications, or ſtopped the ears of the father.---He therefore gives one ſtruggle and throws off the pack, and ſays he cannot take it up again---ſuch a weight will cruſh him down and kill him---and he can but die if he refuſes.

Upon this, thoſe ſervants are very wroth---and tell the father many falſe ſtories reſpecting the child---they bring a great cudgle to the father, aſking him to take it in his hand and ſtrike the child.

This may ſerve to illuſtrate the preſent condition of the King's American ſubjects or children.

Amidst

AMIDST theſe oppreſſions we now and then heard a mollifying and reviving voice from ſome of the King's wiſe councellors, who are our friends and feel for our diſtreſſes, when they heard our complaints and our cries, they applied to the King, alſo told thoſe wicked ſervants, that this child in America was not a croſs boy, it had ſufficient reaſon for crying, and if the cauſe of its complaint was neglected, it would ſoon aſſume the voice of a man, plead for juſtice like a man, and defend its rights and ſupport the old covenant chain of the fathers.

Brothers, liſten!

NOTWITHSTANDING all our intreaties, we have but little hope the King will ſend us any more good talks, by reaſon of his evil counſellors; they have perſuaded him to ſend an army of ſoldiers and many ſhips of war, to rob and deſtroy us. They have ſhut up many of our harbours, ſeized and taken into poſſeſſion many of our veſſels: The ſoldiers have ſtruck the blow, killed ſome of our people, the blood now runs of the American children: They have alſo burned our houſes and towns, and taken much of our goods.

BROTHERS! we are now neceſſitated to *riſe*, and *forced* to fight, or give up our civil conſtitution, run-away and leave our farms and houſes behind us. This muſt not be. Since the King's wicked counſellors will not open their ears, and conſider our juſt complaints, and the cauſe of our weeping, and hath given the blow. We are

determined to drive away the King's ſoldiers, and to kill and deſtroy all thoſe wicked men we find in arms againſt the peace of the Twelve United Colonies upon this iſland. We think our cauſe is juſt; therefore, hope GOD will be on our ſide. We do not take up the hatchet and ſtruggle for honor or conqueſt; but to maintain our civil conſtitution and religious privileges, the very ſame for which our forefathers left their native land and came to this country.

Brothers, and Friends!

WE deſire you will hear and receive what we have now told you, and that you will open a good ear and liſten to what we are now going to ſay. This is a family quarrel between us and Old England. You Indians are not concerned in it. We don't wiſh you to take up the hatchet againſt the King's troops. We deſire you to remain at home and not join either ſide; but keep the hatchet buried deep. In the name and behalf of all our people we aſk and deſire you to love peace and maintain it, and to love and ſympathize with us in our troubles; that the path may be kept open with all our people and yours, to paſs and repaſs, without moleſtation.

BROTHERS! we live upon the ſame ground with you. The ſame Iſland is our common birth-place. We deſire to ſit down under the ſame tree of peace with you: Let us water its roots and cheriſh its growth, till the large leaves and flouriſhing branches ſhall extend to the ſetting Sun, and reach the ſkies.

Brothers,

Brothers, obſerve well!

WHAT it is we have aſked of you!---Nothing but peace, notwithſtanding our preſent diſturbed ſituation---and if application ſhould be made to you by any of the King's unwiſe and wicked miniſters to join on their ſide---We only adviſe you to deliberate with great caution, and in your wiſdom look forward to the conſequences of a compliance. For if the King's troops take away our property, and deſtroy us who are of the ſame blood with themſelves--What can you, who are Indians, expect from them afterwards?

THEREFORE we ſay, Brothers, take care---hold faſt to your covenant chain.--You now know our diſpoſition towards you, the Six Nations of Indians and your allies---Let this our good Talk remain at *Onondaga*, your central council houſe. We depend upon you to ſend and acquaint your allies to the northward, the ſeven tribes on the river St. Lawrence, that you have this Talk of ours at the great Council-Fire of the Six Nations. And when they return, we invite your great men to come and converſe farther with us at Albany, where we intend to rekindle the Council Fire, which your and our anceſtors ſat round in great friendſhip.

Brothers and Friends!

We greet you all,

Farewell.

(The large Belt of Intelligence and Declaration.)

Brothers!

We have ſaid we wiſh you Indians may continue in peace with one another, and with us the White People. Let us both be cautious in our behaviour towards each other at this critical ſtate of affairs. This Iſland now trembles, the wind whiſtles from almoſt every quarter--let us fortify our minds and ſhut our ears againſt falſe rumours -let us be cautious what we receive for truth, unleſs ſpoken by wiſe and good men. If any thing diſagreeable ſhould ever fall out between us, the Twelve United Colonies, and you, the Six Nations, to wound our peace, let us immediately ſeek meaſures for healing the breach. From the preſent ſituation of our affairs, we judge it wiſe and expedient to kindle up a ſmall Council-Fire at Albany, where we may hear each others voice, and diſcloſe our minds more fully to one another.

(A ſmall Belt.)

Ordered, That a ſimilar talk be prepared for the other Indian Nations, preſerving the tenor of the above, and altering it ſo as to ſuit the Indians in the ſeveral departments.

The Congreſs then proceeded to the choice of Commiſſioners for Indian affairs, and after ſome debate, agreed that the nomination of Commiſſioners for the ſouthern department be poſtponed till Tueſday next.

Mr. *Franklin*, Mr. *Henry*, and Mr. *Wilſon* were unanimouſly elected for the middle depart-

The

THE Congreſs then proceeded to elect the Commiſſioners for the northern department, and the following Gentlemen were choſen, viz. Major-General *Philip Schuyler*, Major *Joſeph Hawley*, Mr. *Turbot Francis*, Mr. *Oliver Woolcot*, and Mr. *Volkert P. Douw*.

Adjourned till to-morrow at 8 o'clock.

FRIDAY, *July* 14, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

THE Congreſs reſumed the conſideration of the report of Committee on the militia, and after debate, the ſame was referred for farther conſideration.

Adjourned till to-morrow at 8 o'clock.

SATURDAY, *July* 15, 1775.

Met according to adjournmet.

On motion made, THE Congreſs came to the following reſolution :

WHEREAS the government of Great-Britain hath prohibited the exportation of arms and ammunition to any of the Plantations, and endeavoured to prevent other nations from ſupplying us,

Reſolved,

Reſolved, THAT for the better furniſhing theſe Colonies with the neceſſary means of defending their Rights, every veſſel importing gunpowder, ſalt-petre, ſulphur, provided they bring with the ſulphur four times as much ſalt-petre, braſs field pieces, or good muſkets fitted with bayonets, within nine months from the date of this Reſolution, ſhall be permitted to load and export the produce of theſe Colonies, to the value of ſuch powder and ſtores aforeſaid, the Non-Exportation Agreement notwithſtanding; and it is recommended to the Committees of the ſeveral Provinces to inſpect the military ſtores ſo imported, and to eſtimate a generous price for the ſame, according to their goodneſs, and permit the importer of ſuch powder and other military ſtores aforeſaid, to export the value thereof and no more, in produce of any kind.

SUNDRY intercepted letters were laid before the Congreſs and read.

THE talk to the Stockbridge Indians was then taken up, and the ſame being debated, was agreed to.

On motion, *Reſolved*, THAT the Congreſs will, on Thurſday next, attend Divine Service in a body, both morning and afternoon.

Ordered, THAT Mr. *Lynch* and Mr. *Dickinſon* wait on Mr. Duché and Doctor Alliſon, and requeſt Mr. Duché to preach before the Congreſs on

on Thurſday next, in the morning, and Doctor Alliſon in the afternoon.

Adjourned till Monday at 8 o'clock.

MONDAY, *July* 17, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

A LETTER from General Schuyler being laid before Congreſs, was read, and the ſame being taken into conſideration,

Reſolved, THAT a Commiſſary of ſtores and proviſions be appointed for the New-York department during the preſent campaign.

Walter Livingſton, Eſq; choſen to that office.

Reſolved, THAT a Deputy Quarter-Maſter General be appointed for the ſaid department.

Donald Campbell, Eſq; elected to that office.

Ordered, THAT Mr. *D. Campbell* have the rank of Colonel in the army.

Reſolved, THAT a Deputy Muſter-Maſter be appointed for the ſaid department.

Gunning Bedford, Eſq; elected to that office.

Reſolved, THAT the Convention of New-York be deſired to recommend to General Schuyler a proper

proper perſon for a Deputy Adjutant General or Brigade Major for the army in the New-York department.

Adjourned till to-morrow at 8 o'clock.

TUESDAY, *July* 18, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

THE Congreſs again reſumed the conſideration of the report of the Committee for putting the militia into a proper ſtate for the defence of America, and the ſame being debated by paragraphs, was agreed to as follows:

Reſolved, THAT it be recommended to the inhabitants of all the United Engliſh Colonies in North-America, that all able bodied effective men, between ſixteen and fifty years of age in each Colony, immediately form themſelves into regular companies of militia, to conſiſt of one Captain, two Lieutenants, one Enſign, four Serjeants, four Corporals, one Clerk, one Drummer, one Fifer, and about ſixty-eight Privates.

THAT the officers of each company be choſen by the reſpective companies.

THAT each ſoldier be furniſhed with a good muſket, that will carry an ounce ball, with a bayonet, ſteel ramrod, worm, priming wire and bruſh fitted thereto, a cutting ſword or tomahawk, a cartridge box, that will contain twenty-three

three rounds of cartridges, twelve flints and a knapſack.

THAT the companies be formed into regiments or battalions officered with a Colonel, Lieutenant-Colonel, two Majors, an Adjutant or Quarter-Maſter.

THAT all officers above the rank of a Captain be appointed by the reſpective Provincial Aſſemblies or Conventions, or in their recеſs by the Committees of Safety appointed by ſaid Aſſemblies or Conventions.

THAT all officers be commiſſioned by the Provincial Aſſemblies or Conventions, or in their recеſs by the Committees of Safety appointed by ſaid Aſſemblies or Conventions.

THAT all the militia take proper care to acquire military ſkill, and be well prepared for defence by being each man provided with one pound of good gunpowder, and four pounds of ball fitted to his gun.

THAT one fourth part of the militia in every Colony be ſelected for minute men, of ſuch perſons as are willing to enter into this neceſſary ſervice, formed into companies and battalions, and their officers choſen and commiſſioned as aforeſaid, to be ready on the ſhorteſt notice to march to any place where their aſſiſtance may be required for the defence of their own or a neighbouring Colony; and as theſe minute men may eventually be called to action before the whole

body of the militia are ſufficiently trained, it is recommended that a more particular and diligent attention be paid to their inſtruction in military diſcipline.

THAT ſuch of the minute men, as deſire it, be relieved by new draughts as aforeſaid from the whole body of the militia once in four months.

As there are ſome people, who from religious principles cannot bear arms in any caſe, this Congreſs intend no violence to their conſciences, but earneſtly recommend it to them to contribute liberally, in this time of univerſal calamity, to the relief of their diſtreſſed brethren in the ſeveral colonies, and to do all other ſervices to their oppreſſed country, which they can conſiſtently with their religious principles.

THAT it be recommended to the Aſſemblies or Conventions in the reſpective colonies to provide, as ſoon as poſſible, ſufficient ſtores of ammunition for their colonies; alſo that they deviſe proper means for furniſhing with arms ſuch effective men as are poor and unable to furniſh themſelves.

THAT it be recommended to each colony to appoint a Committee of Safety, to ſuperintend and direct all matters neceſſary for the ſecurity and defence of their reſpective colonies, in the receſs of their Aſſemblies and Conventions.

THAT each colony, at their own expence, make ſuch proviſion by armed veſſels or otherwiſe,

wiſe, as their reſpective Aſſemblies, Conventions, or Committees of Safety ſhall judge expedient and ſuitable to their circumſtances and ſituations for the protection of their harbours and navigation on their ſea coaſts, againſt all unlawful invaſions, attacks and depredations, from cutters and ſhips of war.

THAT it be recommended to the makers of arms for the uſe of the militia, that they make good ſubſtantial muſkets, with barrels three feet and a half in length, that will carry an ounce ball, and fitted with a good bayonet and ſteel ram-rod, and that the making ſuch arms be encouraged in theſe United Colonies.

WHERE in any colony a militia is already formed under regulations approved of by the Convention of ſuch colony, or by ſuch Aſſemblies as are annually elective, we refer to the diſcretion of ſuch Convention or Aſſembly, either to adopt the foregoing regulations in the whole or in part, or to continue their former, as they, on conſideration of all circumſtances, ſhall think beſt.

Adjourned till to morrow at 8 o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, *July* 19, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

THE Preſident laid before the Congreſs a letter from the General, with ſundry papers enclo-

closed, which were read and considered, whereupon

Ordered, THAT Mr. *Wilson* apply to the Committee of the city and liberties of Philadelphia, and request them, to make diligent enquiry what quantity of duck, Russia sheeting, towcloth, oznabrugs and ticklenburgs can be procured in this city, and make return as soon as possible to this Congress.

Resolved, THAT *Joseph Trumbull* be Commissary General, of stores and provisions for the army of the United Colonies.

Resolved, THAT the appointment of a Quarter Master General, a Commissary of Musters, and a Commissary of Artillery, be left to General Washington.

THAT General THOMAS be appointed first Brigadier General, in the army of the United Colonies, in the room of General Pomeroy, who never acted under the commission sent to him, and that General THOMAS's commission bear the same date that General Pomeroy's did.

THAT it be left to General Washington, if he thinks fit, to appoint three Brigade Majors, and commission them accordingly.

THAT a Committee of three be appointed, to report the method of establishing an hospital.

THE Committee chosen are, Mr. *Lewis*, Mr. *Paine*, and Mr. *Middleton*.

THAT

THAT it be recommended to the colonies of New-Hampſhire, Maſſachuſetts-Bay, Rhode-Iſland and Connecticut, to compleat the deficiencies in the regiments belonging to their reſpective colonies, retained by the General in the continental army before Boſton.

THAT it be recommended to the colony of Rhode-Iſland, to compleat and ſend forward to the camp before Boſton, as ſoon as poſſible, the three hundred and ſixty men, lately voted by their General Aſſembly.

THAT it be recommended to the colony of Connecticut, to compleat and ſend forward to the camp before Boſton, as ſoon as poſſible, the fourteen hundred men lately voted by their General Aſſembly.

On motion made, Reſolved, THAT a Committee be appointed to bring in an eſtimate of the expences, incurred by the votes and reſolves of this Congreſs.

Mr. *Deane*, Mr. *Johnſon*, and Mr. *Cuſhing* choſen.

Agreed, THAT the Congreſs meet at this place to-morrow, and from this place go in a body to attend Divine Service.

Reſolved, THAT the nomination of three of the Commiſſioners for Indian affairs, in the ſouthern department be left to the Council of Safety, appointed by the colony of South-Carolina.

THAT

THAT Mr. *John Walker*, of Virginia, be appointed one of the Commiſſioners for Indian affairs in the ſouthern department.

Adjourned till to-morrow at half paſt 9 o'clock.

THURSDAY, *July* 20, 1775, Half after 9, *A. M.*

AN expreſs arriving with diſpatches from General SCHUYLER, the ſame were read.

A LETTER was alſo received from the Convention of Georgia, and read ſetting forth, that that colony had acceeded to the General Aſſociation, and appointed Delegates to attend this Congreſs.

Adjourned till 1 o'clock, *P. M.*

P. M. Met according to adjournment.

THE diſpatches from General SCHUYLER being taken into conſideration.

Reſolved, THAT General SCHUYLER be empowered to diſpoſe of and employ all the troops in the New-York department, in ſuch manner as he may think beſt for the protection and defence of theſe colonies, the tribes of Indians in friendſhip and amity with us, and moſt effectually to promote the general intereſt, ſtill purſuing, if in his power, the former orders from this Congreſs, and ſubject to the future orders of the Commander in Chief

Adjourned till to-morrow at 8 o'clock.

FRIDAY,

FRIDAY, *July* 21, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

THE Committee appointed to prepare an addreſs to the inhabitants of Jamaica, having brought in a draught, the ſame was read.

Ordered, To lie on the table.

THE Committee appointed to prepare an addreſs to the people of Ireland, brought in a draught.

Orderd, To lie on the table.

Reſolved, THAT Mr. *R. Bache*, Mr. *Stephen Paſchall*, and Mr. *M. Hillegas*, be appointed to ſuperintend the preſs, and to have the overſight and care of printing the bills of credit ordered to be ſtruck by this Congreſs.

Reſolved, THAT Mr. *Willie Jones*, of North-Carolina, be the fifth Commiſſioner of Indian affairs in the ſouthern department.

AGREEABLE to order, the Congreſs reſolved itſelf into a Committee of the whole, to take into conſideration the ſtate of America, and after ſome time ſpent therein, the Preſident reſumed the Chair, and Mr. *Ward* reported that they had come to certain reſolutions, which he read, and then deſired leave to ſit again.

THE Commitee appointed to deviſe ways and means to protect the trade of theſe Colonies, brought in their report, which was read.

Ordered,

Ordered, THAT the ſame be taken into conſideration to-morrow morning.

THE Congreſs then entered upon the conſideration of the report from the Committee of the whole, and after ſome debate,

Reſolved, THAT ſuch a body of troops be kept up in the Maſſachuſett's-Bay as General WASHINGTON ſhall think neceſſary, provided they do not exceed twenty-two thouſand men.

Adjourned till to-morrow at 8 o'clock.

SATURDAY, *July* 22, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

AGREEABLE to the order of yeſterday, the Congreſs took into conſideration the report of the Committee appointed to deviſe ways and means to protect the trade of theſe Colonies, and after ſome debate, the further conſideration of it was poſtponed to a future day.

On motion, *Reſolved*, THAT Doctor *Franklin*, Mr. *Jefferſon*, Mr. *J. Adams*, and Mr. *Lee*, be a Committee to take into conſideration, and report on the Reſolution of the Houſe of Commons, February 20, 1775, commonly called Lord North's motion.

Adjourned till Monday at 8 o'clock.

MONDAY

MONDAY being ſpent in a Committee of the whole,

TUESDAY, *July* 25, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

THE Committee for that purpoſe appointed, brought in their report for eſtabliſhing an hoſpital, which was read.

THE Committee appointed to conſider the ways and means of eſtabliſhing a poſt, brought in their report, which was read, and ordered to be conſidered to-morrow.

THE Committee appointed to conſider and report their opinion of the Reſolution of the Houſe of Commons, brought in their report, which was read, ordered to lie on the table for the peruſal of the Members.

THE Congreſs then reſumed the conſideration of the Addreſs to the Aſſembly of Jamaica, and the ſame being debated by paragraphs, was agreed to as follows.

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the Aſſembly of Jamaica,

WE would think ourſelves deficient in our duty, if we ſuffered this Congreſs to paſs over without expreſſing our eſteem for the Aſſembly of Jamaica.

WHOEVER attends to the conduct of thoſe who have been entruſted with the adminiſtration of Britiſh affairs, during theſe laſt twelve years, will diſcover in it a deliberate plan to deſtroy, in every part of the empire, the free conſtitution, for which Britain has been ſo long and ſo juſtly famed. With a dexterity, artful and wicked, they have varied the modes of attack according to the different characters and circumſtances of thoſe whom they meant to reduce. In the Eaſt-Indies, where the effeminacy of the inhabitants promiſed an eaſy conqueſt, they thought it unneceſſary to veil their tyrannic principles under the thinneſt diſguiſe. Without deigning even to pretend a juſtification of their conduct, they ſacrificed the lives of millions to the gratification of their inſatiable avarice and luſt of power. In Britain, where the maxims of freedom were ſtill known, but where luxury and diſſipation had diminiſhed the wonted reverence for them, the attack has been carried on in a more ſecret and indirect manner: Corruption has been employed to undermine them. The Americans are not enervated by effeminacy, like the inhabitants of India; nor debauched by luxury, like thoſe of Great-Britain: It was therefore judged improper to aſſail them by bribery, or by undiſguiſed force. Plauſible ſyſtems were formed; ſpecious pretences were made: All the arts of ſophiſtry were tried to ſhew, that the Britiſh miniſtry had, by law, a right to enſlave us. The firſt and beſt maxims of the conſtitution, venerable to Britons and to Americans, were perverted and prophaned. The power of parliament derived from the peo-

ple

ple to bind the people, was extended over thoſe from whom it was never derived. It is aſſerted, that a ſtanding army may be conſtitutionally kept among us, without our conſent. Theſe principles, diſhonorable to thoſe who adopted them, and deſtructive to thoſe, to whom they were applied, were nevertheleſs carried into execution by the foes of Liberty and of Mankind, acts of parliament, ruinous to America, and unſerviceable to Britain, were made to bind us. Armies, maintained by the parliament, were ſent over to ſecure their operation. The power, however, and the cunning of our adverſaries, were alike unſucceſsful. We refuſed to their parliaments an obedience, which our judgments diſapproved of: We refuſed to their armies a ſubmiſſion, which ſpirits, unaccuſtomed to ſlavery, could not brook.

But while we ſpurned a diſgraceful ſubjection, we were far from running into raſh or ſeditious meaſures of oppoſition. Filled with ſentiments of loyalty to our Sovereign, and of affection and reſpect for our fellow ſubjects in Britain; we petitioned, we ſupplicated, we expoſtulated:—Our prayers were rejected:---Our remonſtrances were diſregarded:---Our grievances were accumulated. All this did not provoke us to violence.

An appeal to the juſtice and humanity of thoſe, who had injured us and were bound to redreſs our injuries, was ineffectual; we next reſolved to make an appeal to their intereſt; though by doing ſo we knew we muſt ſacrifice

our own, and (which gave us equal uneaſineſs) that of our friends, who had never offended us, and who were connected with us by a ſympathy of feelings under oppreſſions ſimilar to our own. We reſolved to give up our commerce, that we might preſerve our liberty. We flattered ourſelves, that, when, by withdrawing our commercial intercourſe with Britain, which we had an undoubted right either to withdraw or to continue, her trade ſhould be diminiſhed, her revenues impaired and her manufacturers unemployed, our miniſterial foes would be induced by intereſt, or compelled by neceſſity, to depart from the plan of tyranny which they had ſo long purſued, and to ſubſtitue, in its place, a ſyſtem more compatible with the freedom of America, and the juſtice of Britain. That this ſcheme of non-importation and non-exportation might be productive of the deſired effects, we were obliged to include the Iſlands in it. From this neceſſity, and from this neceſſity alone, has our conduct towards them proceeded. By converting your ſugar plantations into fields of grain, you can ſupply yourſelves with the neceſſaries of life: While the preſent unhappy ſtruggle ſhall continue, we cannot do more.

But why ſhould we make any apology to the patriotic Aſſembly of Jamaica, who know ſo well the value of Liberty; who are ſo ſenſible of the extreme danger to which ours is expoſed; and who foreſee how certainly the deſtruction of ours muſt be followed by the deſtruction of their own?

We

We receive uncommon pleasure from observing the principles of our righteous opposition distinguished by your approbation: We feel the warmest gratitude for your pathetic mediation in our behalf with the crown. It was indeed unavailing.---But are you to blame?---Mournful experience tells us, that petitions are often rejected, while the sentiments and conduct of the petitioners entitle what they offer to a happier fate.

That our petitions have been treated with disdain is now become the smallest part of our complaint: Miniſterial inſolence is loſt in miniſterial barbarity. It has, by an exertion peculiarly ingenious, procured thoſe very meaſures, which it laid us under the hard neceſſity of purſuing, to be ſtigmatized in parliament as rebellious: It has employed additional fleets and armies for the infamous purpoſe of compelling us to abandon them: It has plunged us in all the horrors and calamities of civil war: It has cauſed the treaſure and the blood of Britons (formerly ſhed and expended for far other ends) to be ſpilt and waſted in the execrable deſign of ſpreading ſlavery over British America: It will not, however, accompliſh its aim: In the worſt of contingences, a choice will ſtill be left, which it never can prevent us from making.

The peculiar ſituation of your iſland calls for your aſſiſtance. But we have your good wiſhes.---From the good wiſhes of the friends of liberty and mankind we ſhall always derive conſolation.

Ordered,

Ordered, THAT a fair copy be made out, to be ſigned by the Preſident, and tranſmitted by the firſt opportunity.

THE Congreſs then reſuming the report of the Committee of the whole, came to the following Reſolutions.

Reſolved, THAT a body of forces, not exceeding five thouſand, be kept up in the New-York department, for the purpoſe of defending that part of America, and for ſecuring the lakes, and protecting the frontiers from incurſions or invaſions.

THAT a further ſum, amounting to the value of one million of Spaniſh milled Dollars be ſtruck in bills of Thirty Dollars each.

As the ſigning ſo great a number of bills as has been directed to be iſſued by this Congreſs, will require more time than the members can poſſibly devote to that buſineſs, conſiſtent with the attention due to the public ſervice,

Reſolved, THAT the following Gentlemen be appointed and fully authoriſed to ſign the ſame, viz. *Luke Morris, Samuel Meredith, Judah Foulke, Samuel Morris, Frederick Kuhl, Robert Strettle Jones, Thomas Coombe, Ellis Lewis, John Meaſe, Thomas Lawrence, Daniel Clymer, John Maxwell Neſbit, Thomas Barclay, John Bayard, William Craig, Thomas Bartow, John Shee, Iſaac Hazlehurſt, Robert Roberts, Anthony Morris, Mordecai Lewis, George Miffliin, Robert Tucknijs, Andrew Bunner, William Jackſon, Joſeph Sims, James Milligan*, and *James Reed*.

THAT

That each of the continental bills be numbered and ſigned by two of the above Gentlemen.

That each Gentleman, who ſigns the continental bills, be allowed and paid out of the continental treaſury one dollar and one-third of a dollar for each and every thouſand bills, ſigned and numbered by him.

That the Gentlemen appointed to number and ſign the bills, do give their receipts for the ſame, expreſſing the number and denomination of them; and after numbering and ſigning them, ſhall deliver the ſame to the continental treaſurers, taking their receipts for the bills ſo delivered.

On motion, Reſolved, That Mr. *Samuel Adams*, Mr *Lee*, and Mr. *J. Rutledge*, with the Secretary, be a Committee to reviſe the Journal of this Congreſs, and prepare it for the Preſs.

Adjourned till to-morrow at 8 o'clock

Wednesday, *July* 26, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

Agreeable to order, the Congreſs reſumed the conſideration of the report of the Committee for eſtabliſhing a Poſt; and the ſame being debated, was agreed to as follows.

That

THAT a Poſt-Maſter General be appointed for the United Colonies, who ſhall hold his office at Philadelphia, and ſhall be allowed a ſalary of *one thouſand* Dollars per annum for himſelf, and *three hundred and forty* Dollars per annum for a Secretary and Comptroller, with power to appoint ſuch, and ſo many Deputies as to him may ſeem proper and neceſſary.

THAT a line of poſts be appointed under the direction of the Poſt-Maſter General, from Falmouth in New-England to Savannah in Georgia, with as many croſs poſts as he ſhall think fit.

THAT the allowance to the Deputies, in lieu of ſallary and all contingent expences, ſhall be twenty per centum on the ſums they collect and pay into the General Poſt-Office annually, when the whole is under or not exceeding one thouſand Dollars, and ten per centum for all ſums above one thouſand Dollars a year.

THAT the ſeveral Deputies account quarterly with the General Poſt-Office, and the Poſt-Maſter General annually with the Continental Treaſurers, when he ſhall pay into the receipt of the ſaid Treaſurers the profits of the Poſt Office; and if the neceſſary expence of this eſtabliſhment ſhould exceed the produce of it, the deficiency ſhall be made good by the United Colonies, and paid to the Poſt-Maſter General by the Continental Treaſurers.

On motion made, *Reſolved*, THAT it be recommended to the Poſt-Maſter General to eſtabliſh a weekly poſt to South Carolina.

THAT

THAT it be left to the Poſt-Maſter General to appoint a Secretary and Comptroller.

THE Congreſs then proceeded to the election of a Poſt Maſter General for one year, and until another is appointed by a future Congreſs, when BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, Eſq; was unanimouſly choſen.

Adjourned till to-morrow at 8 o'clock.

THURSDAY, *July* 27, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

THE Congreſs took into conſideration the report of the Committee on eſtabliſhing an Hoſpital for the army, and the ſame being debated, was agreed to as follows:

THAT for the eſtabliſhment of an Hoſpital for an army conſiſting of twenty thouſand men, the following officers and other attendants be appointed, with the following allowance or pay, viz.

One Director General and chief Phyſician, his pay per day *four Dollars.*

Four Surgeons, each ditto, *one and one-third of a Dollar.*

One Apothecary, ditto, *one and one-third of a Dollar.*

Twenty Surgeons Mates, each ditto, *two-thirds of a Dollar.*

One Clerk, ditto, *two-thirds of a Dollar.*

Two Store-keepers, each *four Dollars* per month.

One nurſe to every ten ſick, *one-fifteenth of a Dollar* per day, or *two Dollars* per month.

Labourers occaſionally.

THE duty of the above Officers.

THE *Director* to furniſh medicines, bedding, and all other neceſſaries, to pay for the ſame, ſuperintend the whole, and make his report to, and receive orders from, the Commander in Chief.

Surgeons, Apothecary and Mates. } To viſit and attend the ſick, and the Mates to obey the orders of the Phyſicians, Surgeons and Apothecary.

Matron. To ſuperintend the Nurſes, bedding, &c.

Nurſes. To attend the ſick and obey the Matron's orders.

Clerk. To keep accounts for the Director and Store-keepers.

Store-keeper. To receive and deliver the bedding and other neceſſaries by order of the Director.

THE

THE Congreſs then proceeded to the election of officers for the hoſpital, when

BENJAMIN CHURCH was unanimouſly elected, to be Director of, and Phyſician in, the hoſpital.

Reſolved, THAT the appointment of the four ſurgeons and the apothecary be left to Doctor B. Church.

THAT the mates be appointed by the ſurgeons.

THAT the number of mates do not exceed twenty.

THAT the number be not kept in conſtant pay, unleſs the ſick and wounded ſhould be ſo numerous as to require the attendance of twenty, and to be diminiſhed as circumſtances will admit, for which purpoſe the pay is fixed by the day, that they may only receive pay for actual ſervice.

THAT one clerk, two ſtorekeepers, and one nurſe to every ten ſick be appointed by the director.

On motion made, *Reſolved*, THAT the Paymaſter give bond, with two ſureties, in the ſum of Fifty Thouſand Dollars, for the faithful performance of his office.

THAT the bond be made payable to the ſame perſons, to whom the bonds of the continental treaſurers are payable.

JAMES WARREN, Esq; was then unanimously elected Pay-Master general.

Resolved, THAT the pay-master in the New-York department give bond to the same persons as above directed, with two sureties, in the sum of 25,000 Dollars, for the faithful performance of his office.

Adjourned till to-morrow at 8 o'clock.

FRIDAY, *July* 28, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

Ordered, THAT Mr. *M'Kean*, and Mr. *Wilson*, prepare the form of bonds for the continental treasurers to execute.

THE Congress then proceeded to the election of a paymaster for the forces in the New-York department, when JONATHAN TRUMBULL, jun. Esq; was unanimously elected to that office.

THE Address to the People of Ireland being again read by paragraphs, was agreed to as follows.

To

To the People of IRELAND. *From the Delegates appointed by the United Colonies of New-Hampſhire, Maſſachuſetts-Bay, Rhode Iſland and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New York, New-Jerſey, Pennſylvania, the Lower Counties on Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North-Carolina, and South Carolina, in General Congreſs at Philadelphia, the 10th of May*, 1775.

Friends and fellow Subjects!

As the important conteſt, into which we have been driven, is now become intereſting to every European ſtate, and particularly affects the members of the Britiſh Empire, we think it our duty to addreſs you on the ſubject. We are deſirous, as is natural to injured innocence, of poſſeſſing the good opinion of the virtuous and humane—We are peculiarly deſirous of furniſhing *you* with a true ſtate of our motives and objects; the better to enable you to judge of our conduct with accuracy, and determine the merits of the controverſy with impartiality and preciſion.

HOWEVER incredible it may appear, that, at this enlightned period, the leaders of a nation, which in every age has ſacrificed hecatombs of her braveſt patriots on the altar of liberty, ſhould preſume gravely to aſſert and, by force of arms, attempt to eſtabliſh an arbitrary ſway over the lives, liberties, and property of their fellow ſubjects in America; it is nevertheleſs a moſt deplorable and indiſputable truth.

THESE Colonies have, from the time of their firſt ſettlement, for near two centuries, peaceably

ably enjoyed thoſe very rights, of which the Miniſtry have, for *ten* years paſt, endeavoured, by fraud and by violence to deprive them. At the concluſion of the laſt war the genius of England and the ſpirit of wiſdom, as if offended at the ungrateful treatment of their ſons, withdrew from the Britiſh counſels and left that nation a prey to a race of miniſters, with whom ancient Engliſh honeſty and benevolence diſdained to dwell. From that period, jealouſy, diſcontent, oppreſſion and diſcord have raged among all his Majeſty's ſubjects; and filled every part of his dominions with diſtreſs and complaint.

Not content with our purchaſing of Britain at her own price, cloathing and a thouſand other articles uſed by near three millions of people on this vaſt Continent; not ſatisfied with the amazing profits ariſing from the monopoly of our trade, without giving us either time to breathe after a long though glorious war, or the leaſt credit for the blood and treaſure we have expended in it;—Notwithſtanding the zeal we had manifeſted for the ſervice of our Sovereign, and the warmeſt attachment to the conſtitution of Britain and the people of England, a black and horrid deſign was formed, to convert us from freemen into ſlaves, from ſubjects into vaſſals, and from friends into enemies.

Taxes, for the firſt time ſince we landed on the American ſhores, were, without our conſent, impoſed upon us; an unconſtitutional edict to compel us to furniſh neceſſaries for a ſtanding army,

my, that we wiſhed to ſee diſbanded, was iſſued; and the legiſlature of New-York ſuſpended for refuſing to comply with it. Our antient and ineſtimable right of trial by jury was, in many inſtances, aboliſhed; and the common law of the land made to give place to Admiralty juriſdictions. Judges were rendered, by the tenure of their commiſſions, entirely dependent on the will of a Miniſter. New crimes were arbitrarily created; and new courts, unknown to the conſtitution, inſtituted. Wicked and inſidious Governors have been ſet over us; and dutiful petitions for the removal of even the notoriouſly infamous Governor *Hutchinſon*, were branded with the opprobious appellation of ſcandalous and defamatory Hardy attempts have been made under colour of parliamentary authority to ſeize Americans, and carry them to Great-Britain to be tried for offences committed in the colonies. Ancient charters have no longer remained ſacred, that of the Maſſachuſetts-Bay was violated; and their form of government eſſentially mutilated and transformed. On pretence of puniſhing a violation of ſome private property, committed by a few diſguiſed individuals, the populous and flouriſhing town of Boſton was ſurrounded by fleets and armies; its trade deſtroyed; its port blocked up; and thirty thouſand citizens ſubjected to all the miſeries attending ſo ſudden a convulſion in their commercial metropolis; and to remove every obſtacle to the rigorous execution of this ſyſtem of oppreſſion, an act of parliament was paſſed evidently calculated to indemnify thoſe, who might, in the proſecution of it, even embrue their hands in the blood of the inhabitants.

Thoſe

Though preſſed by ſuch an accumulation of undeſerved injuries America ſtill remembered her duty to her ſovereign. A Congreſs, conſiſting of Deputies from Twelve United Colonies aſſembled. They in the moſt reſpectful terms laid their grievances at the foot of the throne; and implored his Majeſty's interpoſition in their behalf. They alſo agreed to ſuſpend all trade with Great-Britain, Ireland and the Weſt-Indies; hoping, by this peaceable mode of oppoſition, to obtain that juſtice from the Britiſh Miniſtry which had been ſo long ſolicited in vain — And here permit us to aſſure you, that it was with the utmoſt reluctance we could prevail upon ourſelves, to ceaſe our commercial connection with your Iſland.---*Your* Parliament had done us no wrong---*You* had ever been friendly to the rights of mankind; and we acknowledge, with pleaſure and gratitude, that *your* nation has produced Patriots, who have nobly diſtinguiſhed themſelves in the cauſe of humanity and America. On the other hand, we were not ignorant that the labor and manufactures of Ireland, like thoſe of the ſilk-worm, were of little moment to herſelf; but ſerved only to give luxury to thoſe, who *neither toil nor ſpin*.---We perceived, that if we continued our commerce with you, our agreement not to import from Britain would be *fruitleſs*; and were therefore compelled to adopt a meaſure, to which nothing but abſolute neceſſity would have reconciled us---It gave us however, ſome conſolation to reflect, that ſhould it occaſion much diſtreſs, the fertile regions of America would afford you a ſafe aſylum from poverty, and in time from oppreſſion alſo --an

aſylum,

aſylum, in which many thouſands of your countrymen, have found hoſpitality, peace and affluence; and become united to us by all the ties of conſanguinity, mutual intereſt and affection ---Nor did the Congreſs ſtop here---Flattered by a pleaſing expectation, that the juſtice and humanity which had ſo long characterized the Engliſh nation, would, on proper application, afford us relief; they repreſented their grievances in an affectionate addreſs to their brethren in Britain, and intreated their aid and interpoſition in behalf of theſe Colonies

THE more fully to evince their reſpect for their Sovereign, the unhappy people of Boſton were requeſted by the Congreſs to ſubmit with patience to their fate; and all America united in a reſolution to abſtain from every ſpecies of violence---During this period that devoted town ſuffered unſpeakably. Its inhabitants were inſulted and their property violated---Still relying on the clemency and juſtice of his Majeſty and the nation, they permitted a few regiments to take poſſeſſion of their town; to ſurround it with fortifications; and to cut off all intercourſe between them and their friends in the country.

WITH anxious expectation did all America wait the event of their petition---All America laments its fate---Their Prince was deaf to their complaints: And vain were all attempts to impreſs him with a ſenſe of the ſufferings of his American ſubjects; of the cruelty of their *Taſk-Maſters*, and of the *many Plagues* which impended over his dominions. Inſtead of directions for a

candid enquiry into our grievances, inſult was added to oppreſſion, and our long forbearance rewarded with the imputation of cowardice. Our trade with foreign ſtates was prohibited; and an act of Parliament paſſed to prevent our even fiſhing on our own coaſts---Our peaceable Aſſemblies, for the purpoſe of conſulting the common ſafety, were declared ſeditious; and our aſſerting the very rights which placed the Crown of Great-Britain on the heads of the three ſucceſſive Princes of the Houſe of Hanover, ſtiled rebellion---Orders were given to reinforce the troops in America---The wild and barbarous ſavages of the wilderneſs have been ſolicited by gifts to take up the hatchet againſt us; and inſtigated to deluge our ſettlements with the blood of innocent and defenceleſs women and children ---The whole country was moreover alarmed with the expected horrors of domeſtic inſurrections---Refinements in parental cruelty, at which the genius of Britain muſt bluſh! Refinements which admit not of being even recited without horror, or practiſed without infamy! We ſhould be happy, were theſe dark machinations the mere ſuggeſtions of ſuſpicion---We are ſorry to declare, that we are poſſeſſed of the moſt authentic and indubitable evidence of their reality.

The Miniſtry, bent on pulling down the pillars of the conſtitution, endeavoured to erect the ſtandard of deſpotiſm in America; and if ſucceſsful, Britain and Ireland may ſhudder at the conſequences!

Three of their moſt experienced Generals are ſent to wage war with their fellow ſubjects; and

and *America* is amazed to find the name of *Howe* in the catalogue of her enemies---She loved his brother.

Despairing of driving the Colonies to reſiſtance by any other means, than actual hoſtility, a detachment of the army at Boſton marched into the country in all the array of war; and unprovoked, fired upon, and killed ſeveral of the inhabitants---The neighbouring farmers ſuddenly aſſembled, and repelled the attack---From this, all communication between the town and country was intercepted---The citizens petitioned the General for permiſſion to leave the town, and he promiſed on ſurrendering their arms, to permit them to depart with their other effects---They accordingly ſurrendered their arms, and the General violated his faith---Under various pretences, paſſports were delayed and denied; and many thouſands of the inhabitants are at this day confined in the town in the utmoſt wretchedneſs and want---The lame, the blind and the ſick, have indeed been turned out into the neighbouring fields; and ſome, eluding the vigilance of the ſentries, have eſcaped from the town, by ſwiming to the adjacent ſhores.

The war having thus began on the part of General Gage's troops, the country armed and embodied. The re-inforcements from Ireland ſoon after arrived; a vigorous attack was then made upon the Provincials---In their march, the troops ſurrounded the town of Charleſtown, conſiſting of about four hundred houſes, then recently abandoned to eſcape the fury of a relent-

leſs ſoldiery. Having plundered the houſes, they ſet fire to the town, and reduced it to aſhes ---To this wanton waſte of property, unknown to civilized nations, they were prompted, the beter to conceal their approach under cover of the ſmoak. A ſhocking mixture of cowardice and cruelty, which then firſt tarniſhed the luſtre of the Britiſh arms, when aimed at a brother's breaſt!---But bleſſed be GOD, they were reſtrained from committing farther ravages, by the loſs of a very conſiderable part of their army, including many of their moſt experienced officers--- The loſs of the inhabitants was inconſiderable.

COMPELLED therefore to behold thouſands of our Countrymen impriſoned, and men, women and children involved in promiſcuous and unmerited miſery---When we find all faith at an end, and ſacred treaties turned into tricks of ſtate---When we perceive our friends and kindſmen maſſacred, our habitations plundered, out houſes in flames, and their once happy inhabitants fed only by the hand of charity--- Who can blame us for endeavouring to reſtrain the progreſs of deſolation? Who can cenſure our repelling the attacks of ſuch a barbarous band? Who, in ſuch circumſtances, would not obey the great, the univerſal, the divine law of ſelf-preſervation?

THOUGH vilified as wanting ſpirit, we are determined to behave like men---Though inſulted and abuſed, we wiſh for reconciliation---Though defamed as ſeditious, we are ready to obey the laws---And though charged with rebellion, will cheerfully

cheerfully bleed in defence of our Sovereign in a righteous cauſe---What more can we ſay?---What more can we offer?

But we forbear to trouble you with a tedious detail of the various and fruitleſs offers and applications we have repeatedly made, not for penſions, for wealth, or for honors, but for the humble boon of being permitted to poſſeſs the fruits of honeſt induſtry, and to enjoy that degree of Liberty, to which God and the Conſtitution have given us an undoubted right.

Blessed with an indiſſoluble union with a variety of internal reſources, and with a firm reliance on the juſtice of the ſupreme diſpoſer of all human events, we have no doubt of riſing ſuperior to all the machinations of evil and abandoned Miniſters. We already anticipate the golden period, when liberty, with all the gentle arts of peace and humanity, ſhall eſtabliſh her mild dominion in this weſtern world, and erect eternal monuments to the memory of thoſe virtuous patriots and martyrs, who ſhall have fought and bled and ſuffered in her cauſe.

Accept our moſt grateful acknowledgments for the friendly diſpoſition you have always ſhewn towards us---We know that *you* are not without your grievances---We ſympathize with you in your diſtreſs, and are pleaſed to find that the deſign of ſubjugating us, has perſuaded Adminiſtration to diſpenſe to Ireland, ſome vagrant rays of miniſterial ſunſhine---Even the tender mercies of government have long been cruel to-

wards

wards *you*--In the rich paſtures of Ireland, many hungry parricides have fed, and grown ſtrong to labour in its deſtruction. We hope the patient abiding of the meek may not always be forgotten; and GOD grant that the iniquitous ſchemes of extirpating LIBERTY from the Britiſh empire may be ſoon defeated. But we ſhould be wanting to ourſelves; we ſhould be perfidious to poſterity; we ſhould be unworthy that anceſtry from which we derive our deſcent, ſhould we ſubmit with folded arms to military butchery and depredation, to gratify the lordly ambition, or ſate the avarice of a Britiſh Miniſtry. In defence of our perſons and properties, under actual violation, we have taken up arms--When that violence ſhall be removed, and hoſtilities ceaſe on the part of the aggreſſors, they ſhall ceaſe on our part alſo--For the atchievment of this happy event, we confide in the good offices of our fellow ſubjects beyond the Atlantic. Of their friendly diſpoſition we do not yet deſpond; aware as they muſt be, that they have nothing more to expect from the ſame common enemy, than the humble favour of being laſt devoured.

Adjourned till to-morrow at 8 o'clock.

SATURDAY, *July* 29, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

THE Congreſs reſumed the conſideration of the report from the Committee of the whole, and came to the following reſolution:

Reſolved,

Resolved, THAT the pay of the Commissary-General of Musters be *Forty Dollars* per month.

Deputy Commissary-General of stores and provisions *Sixty Dollars* per ditto.

Deputy Adjutant General *Fifty Dollars* per do.

D. Muster Master-General *Forty Dol.* per do.

Brigade-Major *Thirty three Dollars* per ditto.

Commissary of Artillery *Thirty Dollars* per do.

Judge Advocate *Twenty Dollars* per ditto,

Colonel *Fifty Dollars* per ditto.

Lieutenant Colonel *Forty Dollars* per ditto.

Major *Thirty-three Dollars and One-third* per do.

Captain *Twenty Dollars* per ditto.

Lieut. *Thirteen Dollars and One-third* per ditto.

Ensign *Ten Dollars* per ditto.

Serjeant *Eight Dollars* per ditto.

Corporal, drummer and fifer, each *Seven Dollars and One-third* per ditto.

Private *Six Dollars and Two thirds* per ditto.

Adjutant *Eighteen Dollars and One-third* per do.

Q. Master *Eighteen Dollars & One-third* per do.

Chaplain *Twenty Dollars* per ditto.

THAT the pay of the Light-Infantry be the same as that in the Regiment from a Captain to a Private, both inclusive.

THAT in the Artillary the pay be of a Captain *Twenty six Dollars and Two thirds* per month.

Captain Lieutenant *Twenty Dollars* per ditto.

Lieutenants first and second *Eighteen Dollars and One third* per ditto.

Lieutenant Fireworker *Thirteen Dollars and One third* per ditto.

Serjeant *Eight Dollars and One third* per ditto.

Corporal

Corporal *Seven Dollars and a Half* per month.
Bombardier *Seven Dollars* per ditto.
Matroſs *Six Dollars and Five-ſixths of a Dollar* per ditto.

THAT the appointment of Provoſt-Martial, Waggon-maſter and Maſter Carpenter be left to the Commander in Chief of the army, who is to fix their pay, having regard to the pay they receive in the Miniſterial army, and the proportion that the pay of the officers in ſaid army bears to the pay of our officers.

WILLIAM TUDOR, Eſq; was elected Judge Advocate of the army.

Reſolved, THAT *Michael Hillegas* and *George Clymer*, Eſquires, be joint Treaſurers of the United Colonies: That the Treaſurers reſide in Philadelphia, and that they ſhall give bond with ſurety for the faithful performance of their office, in the ſum of *one hundred thouſand Dollars* to *John Hancock*, *Henry Middleton*, *John Dickinſon*, *John Alſop*, *Thomas Lynch*, *Richard Henry Lee*, and *James Wilſon*, Eſquires, and the ſurvivor of them in truſt for the United Colonies.

THAT the Provincial Aſſemblies or Conventions do each chuſe a Treaſurer for their reſpective Colonies, and take ſufficient ſecurity for the faithful performance of the truſt.

THAT each Colony provide ways and means to ſink its proportion of the bills ordered to be emitted by this Congreſs, in ſuch manner as may be moſt effectual and beſt adapted to the condition,

tion, circumſtances and equal mode of levying taxes in ſuch Colony.

THAT the proportion or quota of each colony be determined according to the number of inhabitants of all ages, including negroes and mulattoes in each colony; but as this cannot at preſent be aſcertained, that the quotas of the ſeveral colonies be ſettled for the preſent as follows, to undergo a reviſion and correction, when the liſt of each colony is obtained.

New-Hampſhire, -	12406 9/12
Maſſachuſetts Bay, -	43424 4
Rhode Iſland, -	7 1959 1/2
Connecticut, -	24813 9
New-York, -	24813 9
New-Jerſey, -	16129 0 1/2
Pennſylvania, -	37220 8 1/2
Delaware, - -	3721 9 1/2
Maryland, - -	31017 4 1/2
Virginia, - -	49627 8
North-Carolina, -	24813 9
South-Carolina, -	24813 9
	3,000000

THAT each colony pay its reſpective quota in four equal annual payments, the firſt payment to be made on or before the laſt day of November, which will be in the year of our Lord one thouſand ſeven hundred and ſeventy nine, the ſecond, on or before the laſt day of November, 1780, the third, on or before the laſt day of November, 1781, and the fourth or laſt, on or before the laſt day of November, 1782, and

that for this end the ſeveral provincial Aſſemblies or Conventions provide for laying and levying taxes in their reſpective provinces or colonies, towards ſinking the continental bills: That the ſaid bills be received by the collectors in payment of ſuch taxes, and be by the collectors paid into the hands of the provincial treaſurers, with all ſuch other monies as they may receive in lieu of the continental bills, which other monies the ſaid provincial treaſurer ſhall endeavour to get exchanged for continental bills, and where that cannot be done, ſhall ſend to the continental treaſurers the deficiency in ſilver or gold, with the bills making up the quota to be ſunk in that year, taking care to cut by a circular punch of an inch diameter an hole in each bill, and to croſs the ſame, thereby to render them unpaſſable, though the ſum or value is to remain fairly legible: And the continental treaſurers, as faſt as they receive the ſaid quotas, ſhall with the aſſiſtance of a Committee of five perſons, to be appointed by the Congreſs, if ſitting, or by the Aſſembly or Convention of the province of Pennſylvania, examine and count the continental bills, and in the preſence of the ſaid Committee burn and deſtroy them. And the ſilver and gold ſent them to make up the deficiencies of quotas, they ſhall retain in their hands until demanded in redemption of continental bills that may be brought to them for that purpoſe, which bills ſo redeemed, they ſhall alſo burn and deſtroy in preſence of the ſaid Committee. And the ſaid treaſurers, whenever they have ſilver or gold in their hands for the redemption of continental bills,

bills, ſhall advertiſe the ſame, ſignifying that he is ready to give ſilver or gold for ſuch bills to all perſons requiring it in exchange.

THE provincial treaſurers and collectors are to have ſuch allowances for their reſpective ſervices, as ſhall be directed by the ſeveral Aſſemblies or Conventions, to be paid by their reſpective province or colony.

THAT the continental treaſurers be allowed for their ſervice this year Five Hundred Dollars each.

Reſolved, THAT the Paymaſter General, Commiſſary General, Quarter Maſter General, and every of their deputies, ſhall take an oath truly and faithfully to diſcharge the duties of their reſpective ſtations.

Ordered, THAT the continental treaſurers do pay to Col. *William Thompſon*, or his order, Five Thouſand Dollars on account, being by advance for the ſervice of a battalion of Rifle-Men under his command.

Reſolved, THAT this Congreſs will as ſoon as the public buſineſs permits, adjourn to the *Fifth* of *September* next.

Reſolved, THAT the Congreſs will on Monday next conſider of the ſtate of trade, after the tenth of next September.

MR. *M Kean*, from the Committee reported the form of a bond, to be given by the joint continental treaſurers.

Ordered, THAT the ſaid Committee do inſpect into the ſufficiency of the ſureties.

Adjourned till Monday, at 8 o'clock.

MONDAY, *July* 31, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

THE Congreſs took into conſideration the report of the Committee, on the reſolve of the Houſe of Commons, and the ſame being debated by paragraphs, was agreed to as follows.

THE ſeveral Aſſemblies of *New Jerſey*, *Pennſylvania*, and *Virginia*, having referred to the Congreſs a reſolution of the Houſe of Commons of Great-Britain, which reſolution is in theſe words:

Lunæ, 20° *die Feb.* 1775.

The Houſe in a Committee on the American papers. Motion made, and queſtion propoſed.

That it is the opinion of this Committee, that when the General Council and Aſſembly, or General Court of any of his Majeſty's provinces, or colonies in America, ſhall propoſe to make proviſion, according to the condition, circumſtance, or ſituation of ſuch province or colony, for contributing their proportion to the common defence (ſuch proportion to be raiſed under the authority of the General Court, or General Aſſembly of ſuch province or colony,

lony, and diſpoſable by Parliament) and ſhall engage to make proviſion alſo, for the ſupport of the civil government, and the adminiſtration of juſtice in ſuch province or colony, it will be proper if ſuch propoſal ſhall be approved by his Majeſty and the two Houſes of Parliament, and for ſo long as ſuch proviſion ſhall be made accordingly, to forbear in reſpect of ſuch province or colony to lay any duty, tax, or aſſeſſment, or to impoſe any farther duty, tax, or aſſeſſment, except only ſuch duties as it may be expedient to continue to levy or impoſe, for the regulation of commerce; the net produce of the duties laſt mentioned, to be carried to the account of ſuch province or colony reſpectively.

THE Congreſs took the ſaid reſolution into conſideration, and are thereupon of opinion.

THAT the colonies of America are entitled to the ſole and excluſive privilege of giving and granting their own money: that this involves a right of deliberating whether they will make any gift, for what purpoſes it ſhall be made, and what ſhall be its amount; and that it is a high breach of this privilege for any body of men, extraneous to their conſtitutions, to preſcribe the purpoſes for which money ſhall be levied on them, to take to themſelves the authority of judging of their conditions, circumſtances and ſituations, and of determining the amount of the contribution to be levied.

THAT as the colonies poſſeſs a right of appropriating their gifts, ſo are they entitled at all times to enquire into their application, to

ſee

ſee that they be not waſted among the venal and corrupt for the purpoſe of undermining the civil rights of the givers, nor yet be diverted to the ſupport of ſtanding armies, inconſiſtent with their freedom and ſubverſive of their quiet. To propoſe therefore, as this reſolution does, that the monies given by the colonies ſhall be ſubject to the diſpoſal of parliament alone, is to propoſe that they ſhall relinquiſh this right of enquiry, and put it in the power of others to render their gifts ruinous, in proportion as they are liberal.

THAT this privilege of giving or of withholding our monies, is an important barrier againſt the undue exertion of prerogative, which, if left altogether without controul, may be exerciſed to our great oppreſſion; and all hiſtory ſhews how efficacious is its interceſſion for redreſs of grievances and re-eſtabliſhment of rights, and how improvident it would be to part with ſo powerful a mediator.

WE are of opinion that the propoſition contained in this reſolution is unreaſonable and inſidious: unreaſonable, becauſe, if we declare we accede to it, we declare without reſervation, we will purchaſe the favor of parliament, not knowing at the ſame time at what price they will pleaſe to eſtimate their favor; it is inſidious, becauſe, individual colonies, having bid and bidden again, till they find the avidity of the ſeller too great for all their powers to ſatisfy; are then to return into oppoſition, divided from their ſiſter colonies whom the miniſter will have previouſly

previouſly detached by a grant of eaſier terms, or by an artful procraſtination of a definitive anſwer.

That the ſuſpenſion of the exerciſe of their pretended power of taxation being expreſsly made commenſurate with the continuance of our gifts, theſe muſt be perpetual to make that ſo. Whereas no experience has ſhewn that a gift of perpetual revenue ſecures a perpetual return of duty or of kind diſpoſition. On the contrary, the Parliament itſelf, wiſely attentive to this obſervation, are in the eſtabliſhed practice of granting their ſupplies from year to year only.

Desirous and determined as we are to conſider, in the moſt diſpaſſionate view every ſeeming advance towards a reconciliation made by the Britiſh Parliament, let our brethren of Britain reflect what would have been the ſacrifice to men of free ſpirits had even fair terms been proffered, as theſe inſidious propoſals were with circumſtances of inſult and defiance. A propoſition to give our money, accompanied with large fleets and armies, ſeems addreſſed to our fears rather than to our freedom. With what patience would Britons have received articles of treaty from any power on earth when borne on the point of a bayonet by military plenipotentiaries?

We think the attempt unneceſſary to raiſe upon us by force or by threats our proportional contributions to the common defence, when all know, and themſelves acknowledge, we have fully

fully contributed, whenever called upon to do ſo in the character of freemen.

We are of opinion it is not juſt that the colonies ſhould be required to oblige themſelves to other contributions, while Great Britain poſſeſſes a monopoly of their trade. This of itſelf lays them under heavy contribution. To demand, therefore, additional aids in the form of a tax, is to demand the double of their equal proportion, if we are to contribute equally with the other parts of the empire, let us equally with them enjoy free commerce with the whole world. But while the reſtrictions on our trade ſhut to us the reſources of wealth, is it juſt we ſhould bear all other burthens equally with thoſe to whom every reſource is open?

We conceive that the Britiſh parliament has no right to intermeddle with our proviſions for the ſupport of civil government, or adminiſtration of juſtice. The proviſions we have made are ſuch as pleaſe ourſelves, and are agreeable to our own circumſtances: they anſwer the ſubſtantial purpoſes of government and of juſtice, and other purpoſes than theſe ſhould not be anſwered. We do not mean that our people ſhall be burthened with oppreſſive taxes, to provide ſinecures for the idle or the wicked, under colour of providing for a civil liſt. While parliament purſue their plan of civil government within their own juriſdiction, we alſo hope to purſue ours without moleſtation.

We

We are of opinion the propoſition is altogether unſatisfactory, becauſe it imports only a ſuſpenſion of the mode, not a renunciation of the pretended right to tax us: becauſe too it does not propoſe to repeal the ſeveral Acts of Parliament paſſed for the purpoſes of reſtraining the trade and altering the form of government of one of our colonies; extending the boundaries and changing the government of Quebec; enlarging the juriſdiction of the courts of Admiralty and Vice Admiralty; taking from us the rights of trial by a jury of the vicinage in caſes affecting both life and property; tranſporting us into other countries to be tried for criminal offences; exempting by mock-trial the murderers of coloniſts from puniſhment; and quartering ſoldiers on us in times of profound peace. Nor do they renounce the power of ſuſpending our own legiſlatures, and of legiſlating for us themſelves in all caſes whatſoever. On the contrary, to ſhew they mean no diſcontinuance of injury, they paſs acts, at the very time of holding out this propoſition, for reſtraining the commerce and fiſheries of the provinces of New-England, and for interdicting the trade of other colonies with all foreign nations and with each other. This proves unequivocally they mean not to relinquiſh the exerciſe of indiſcriminate legiſlation over us.

Upon the whole, this propoſition ſeems to have been held up to the world, to deceive it into a belief that there was nothing in diſpute between us but the *mode* of levying taxes; and that the Parliament having now been ſo good as to

give up this, the Colonies are unreasonable if not perfectly satisfied: Whereas in truth, our adversaries still claim a right of demanding *ad libitum*, and of taxing us themselves to the full amount of their demand, if we do not comply with it. This leaves us without any thing we can call property. But, what is of more importance, and what in this proposal they keep out of sight, as if no such point was now in contest between us, they claim a right to alter our Charters and establish laws, and leave us without any security for our Lives or Liberties. The proposition seems also to have been calculated more particularly to lull into fatal security our well affected fellow subjects on the other side the water, till time should be given for the operation of these arms, which a British Minister pronounced would instantaneously reduce the "cowardly" sons of America to unreserved submission. But when the world reflects, how inadequate to justice are these vaunted terms; when it attends to the rapid and bold succession of injuries, which, during a course of eleven years, have been aimed at these Colonies; when it reviews the pacific and respectful expostulations, which, during that whole time, were the sole arms we opposed to them; when it observes that our complaints were either not heard at all, or were answered with new and accumulated injuries; when it recollects that the Minister himself on an early occasion declared, "that he would never treat with America, till he had brought her to his feet," and that an avowed partisan of Ministry has more lately denounced against us the dreadful sentence "*delenda est Carthago*,"

that

that this was done in preſence of a Britiſh ſenate, and being unreproved by them, muſt be taken to be their own ſentiment, (eſpecially as the purpoſe has already in part been carried into execution, by their treatment of Boſton and burning of Charleſtown;) when it conſiders the great armaments with which they have invaded us, and the circumſtances of cruelty with which theſe have commenced and proſecuted hoſtilities; when theſe things, we ſay, are laid together and attentively conſidered, can the world be deceived into an opinion that we are unreaſonable, or can it heſitate to believe with us, that nothing but our own exertions may defeat the Miniſterial ſentence of death or abject ſubmiſſion.

On motion made, Reſolved, That Mr *Langdon*, Mr *J. Adams*, Mr *Hopkins*, Mr. *Deane*, Mr. *Clinton*, Mr. *Crane*, Doctor *Franklin*, Mr. *Rodney*, Mr. *Johnſon*, Mr. *Henry*, Mr. *Howes*, Mr. *Gadſden*, and Mr. *Hall*, be a Committee in the receſs of Congreſs, to make enquiry in all the colonies after virgin lead and leaden ore, and the beſt methods of collecting, ſmelting and refining it.

Reſolved, That the above named Gentlemen be a Committee, in the receſs of the Congreſs, to enquire into the cheapeſt and eaſieſt methods of making ſalt in theſe colonies.

Agreeable to the order of the day, the Congreſs took under conſideration the ſtate of trade after the *Tenth* of *September*, and after ſome debate, the ſame was poſtponed to a future day.

On motion, Resolved, THAT when the Congress adjourns for recess, it be adjourned to meet at Philadelphia.

Two petitions, one from sundry merchants in New York, and the other from sundry merchants in Philadelphia, respecting the sale of teas imported before the late association, were laid before the Congress,

Ordered, To lie on the table.

Adjourned till to-morrow at 8 o'clock.

TUESDAY, *August* 1, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

Resolved, THAT the sum of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars be immediately forwarded from the continental treasury to the Paymaster General, to be applied to the use of the army in Massachusetts Bay, in such manner as General *Washington*, or the Commander in Chief for the time being, by his warrants, shall limit and appoint; and if the above sum shall be expended before the next meeting of the Congress, then that General *Washington*, or the Commander in Chief for the time being, be empowered to draw upon the continental treasury for the sum of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars, in favour of the Paymaster General to be applied for the use and in the manner above mentioned.

Ordered, THAT the Delegates for Pennsylvania be a Committee to receive and count the above sum of 500,000 dollars, and forward the same

ſame under the care of the Delegates of Maſſachuſetts Bay, provided ſo much is now ready in the treaſury. If that is not the caſe, then to receive, count, and forward by the ſaid Delegates what is ready, and the remainder by the firſt opportunity in the ſafeſt and beſt manner.

Reſolved, THAT a ſum not exceeding One Hundred and Seventy Five Thouſand Dollars be paid to the Provincial Convention of New-York, to be applied towards the diſcharge of the monies advanced and the debts contracted for the public ſervice, by the ſaid Provincial Convention and the Committee of Albany, in purſuance of the directions of this Congreſs; and that the ſaid Provincial Convention account to this Congreſs at their next meeting for the application of the ſaid money.

Reſolved, THAT the treaſurers be, and they are hereby ordered to pay to the Delegates of the colony of Connecticut, viz. *Eliphalet Dyer*, *Roger Sherman*, and *Silas Deane*, Eſquires, the ſum of Fifty Thouſand Dollars, to be by them paid unto the Governor and Company of the ſaid colony, in part of the ſums by them diſburſed in the continental ſervice: the ſaid Governor and Company to account therefor.

Reſolved, THAT the ſum of One Hundred Thouſand Dollars be immediately forwarded from the continental treaſury to the Paymaſter General, to be applied to the uſe of the army in the New-York department, in ſuch manner as General *Schuyler* by his warrant ſhall limit and appoint;

appoint; and that if the above ſum ſhall be expended, before the next meeting of the Congreſs, then that General *Schuyler*, or the Commander in Chief, for the time being, in that department be empowered to draw upon the continental treaſury for a further ſum not exceeding Two Hundred Thouſand Dollars, to be applied for the uſe and in the manner above mentioned.

Reſolved, THAT the ſum of *ſixteen thouſand Dollars* be paid to the Delegates of the Colony of Pennſylvania, in full for the like ſum by them borrowed by order of the Congreſs, on the 3d of June laſt, for the uſe of the Continent.

Reſolved, THAT the ſum of *ten thouſand Dollars* be placed in the hands of the Delegates of Pennſylvania, or any three of them, for contingent ſervices, and that out of the ſame, be paid the expences incurred for raiſing and arming the rifle companies, and for expreſſes and other ſmall charges, of which the Congreſs have not been able to procure exact accounts; and that the ſaid Committee do lay before the Congreſs, at their next meeting, an account of their proceedings in that matter.

WHEREAS at a former Congreſs it was reſolved, that, if certain acts of Parliament, in the Continental Aſſociation enumerated and complained of, ſhould not be repealed on or before the 10th day of September, 1775, the inhabitants of theſe United Colonies would not, directly or indirectly, export any merchandize or commodity

dity whatſoever to Great-Britain, Ireland or the Weſt-Indies; and as ſome doubts have ariſen with reſpect to the true ſpirit and conſtruction of ſaid Reſolve: To the end that ſuch doubts may be removed,

Reſolved, THAT under the prohibition, in the ſaid Aſſociation contained, to export to, or import from, the Iſlands of Great-Britain and Ireland, this Congreſs intends to comprize all exportation to, or importation from, the Iſlands of Jerſey, Guernſy, Sark, Alderney and Mann, and every European Iſland and Settlement within the Britiſh dominions; and that under the denomination of the Weſt-Indies, this Congreſs means to comprehend all the Weſt India Iſlands, Britiſh and foreign, to whatever ſtate, power, or prince belonging, or by whomſoever governed, and alſo the Summer Iſlands, Bahama Iſlands, Berbicia and Surinam on the Main, and every Iſland and Settlement within the latitude of the ſouthern line of Georgia and the Equator.

Adjourned to Tueſday, the 5th of September next.

The above is a Copy of the JOURNAL *of the* PROCEEDINGS *of the* CONGRESS, *from their* MEETING *on the* Tenth *of* May, *to this time, except that ſome Reſolutions, relative to* MILITARY OPERATIONS, *carrying on, are omitted.*

JOHN HANCOCK, PRESIDENT.

CHARLES THOMSON, *Secretary.*

